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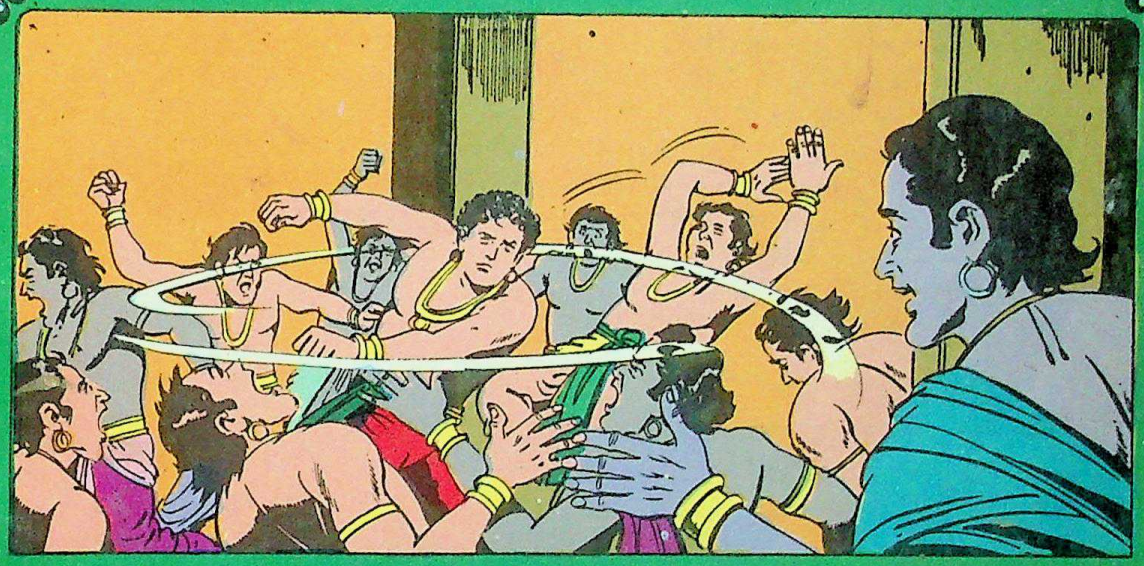
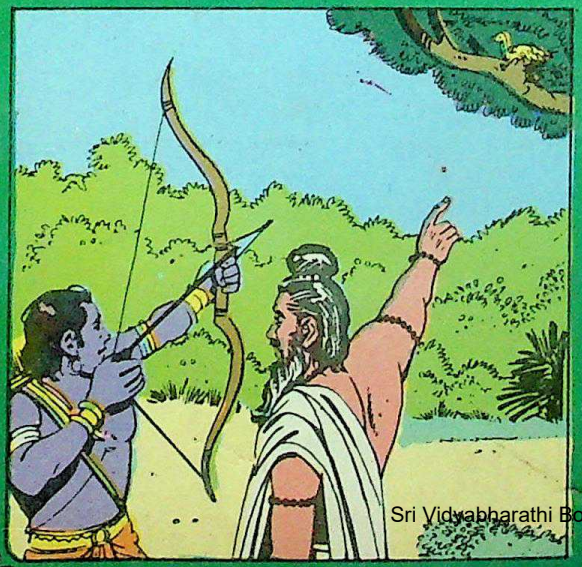
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

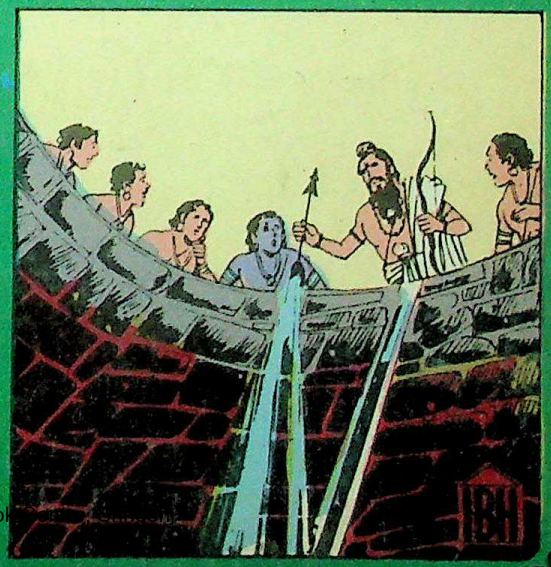
MAHABHARATA

THE VALOROUS PANDAVAS

• THE PANDAVAS AT HASTINAPURA • ENTER DRONA • ENTER KARNA







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MAHABHARATA

Veda Vyasa's epic on the Bharata race was first recited in public by his disciple Vaishampayana at the behest of the ageless seer Vyasa himself.

The recital took place in the august presence of King Janamejaya, great-grandson of Vyasa, and the many learned sages who had assembled for Janamejaya's Sarpa Satra (a twelve year-long Yagna).

The following three volumes of our rendering of the Mahabharata describe the days at Hastinapura, when the young Pandava and Kaurava princes were being groomed for their royal duties. They also describe the feats of strength of Bheema, and Arjuna's unmatched skill in archery, the growing rivalry among the Kauravas and Pandavas, the advent of Drona as their guru, and the exhibition of the skills of the young princes at a public contest. Also described is the advent of Karna who later was to play a very important role in the Mahabharata war.

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MAHABHARATA-4

The Pandavas at Hastinapura

VEDA VYASA'S EPIC ON THE BHARATA RACE WAS FIRST RECITED IN PUBLIC, BY HIS DISCIPLE VAISHAMPAYANA, AT THE BEHEST OF VYASA HIMSELF.

THE RECITAL TOOK PLACE IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF KING JANAMEJAYA—GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE GRANDSON OF VYASA—AND THE MANY LEARNED SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA SATRA.

THE THIRD SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL, OF VYASA'S MAHABHARATA, DESCRIBED THE MARVELLOUS BIRTHS OF THE PANDAVAS AND THE KAURAVAS AND THE DEATH OF PANDU AND MADRI. IT ENDED WITH THE ASCETICS OF SHATASHRINGA LEAVING WITH KUNTI AND THE PANDAVAS FOR HASTINAPURA.

Chandamama Book Centre, Srinagar

FOR PRONUNCIATION AND MEANING OF SANSKRIT WORDS AND PROPER NAMES, PLEASE SEE PAGE 32.

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WHEN KUNTI AND THE ENTOURAGE ARRIVED AT THE PORTALS OF THE CITY OF HASTINAPURA, THE RISHIS ASKED THE GUARDS TO INFORM THE KING OF THEIR ARRIVAL.

"THE GUARDS LOST NO TIME IN CONVEYING THE MESSAGE. THE CITIZENS OF HASTINAPURA WERE SURPRISED TO HEAR OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE LARGE GROUP OF RISHIS AND BARDS.

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"MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL CASTES THRONGED THE STREETS; SOME ON FOOT, SOME IN VEHICLES. ALL EAGER TO SEE THE VISITORS.

THE CONCOURSE, THOUGH VAST, WAS PEACEFUL BECAUSE IT WAS ORDERLY AND FREE FROM SCUFFLE.

"THEN THERE CAME BHEESHMA, DHRITARASHTRA, VIDURA, SATYAVATI, AMBIKA, AMBALIKA, GANDHARI AND OTHER LADIES OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, AND THE SONS OF DHRITARASHTRA ADORNED WITH JEWELS AND ORNAMENTS.

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"THE KAURAVAS BOWED TO THE RISHIS AND THE CITIZENS PROSTRATED THEMSELVES BEFORE THE HOLY GROUP.

THEN BHEESHMA WELCOMED THEM WITH BEFITTING HONOUR AND PLACED AT THEIR DISPOSAL THE WEALTH THAT WAS THE KINGDOM.

"THEN THE OLDEST OF THE RISHIS, WITH MATTED LOCKS AND CLAD ONLY IN DEERSKIN, SPOKE THUS FOR ALL OF THEM:

PANDU, THE KING AND THE SOVEREIGN CHIEF OF THE KURUS, RENOUNCING WORLDLY PURSUITS, CAME TO THE SHATASHRINGA MOUNTAINS TO LEAD THE LIFE OF A BRAHMACHARI.

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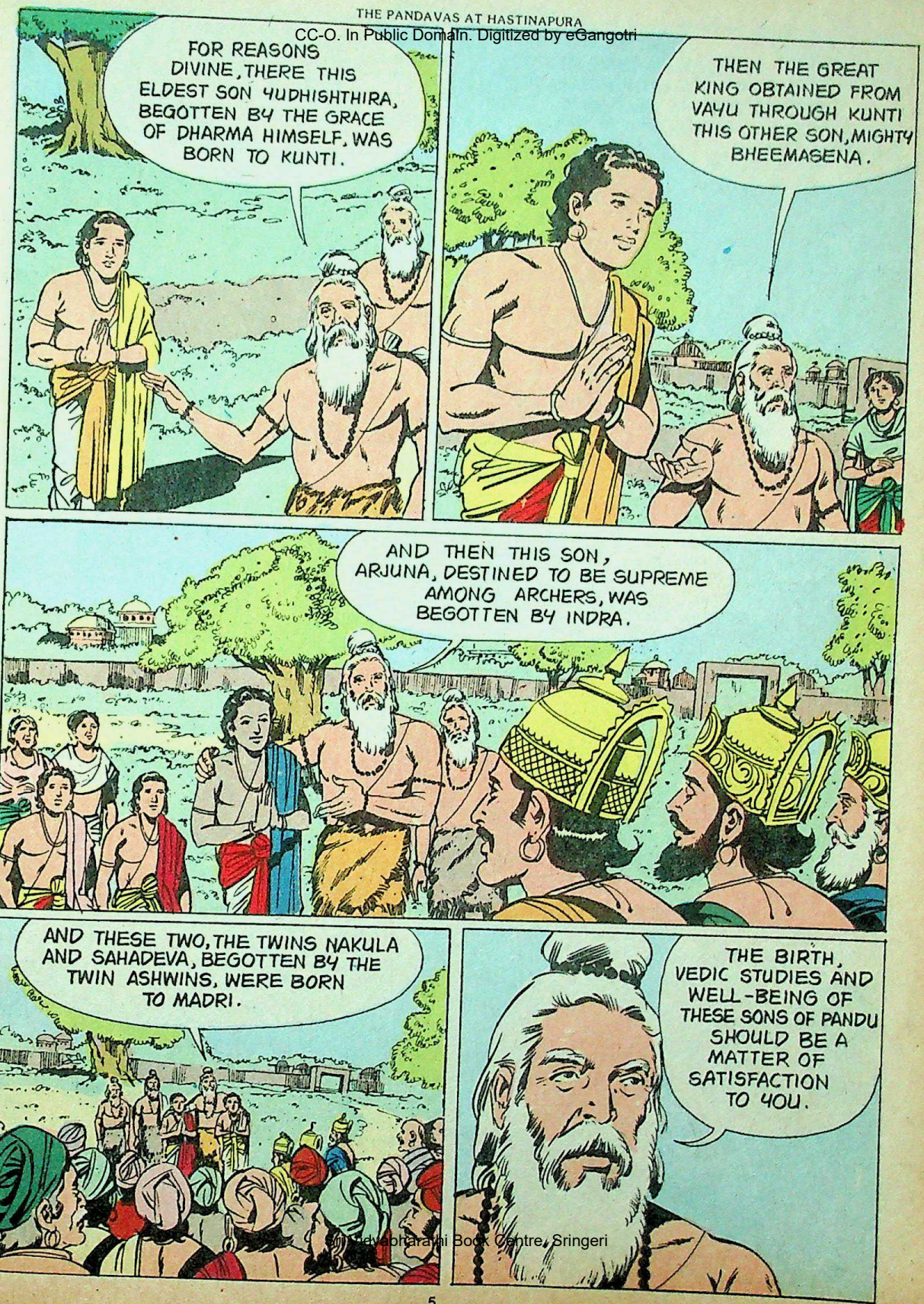

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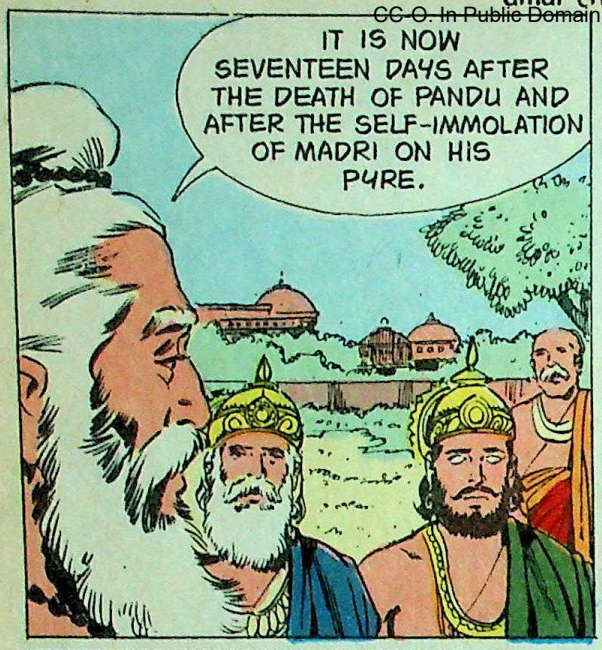

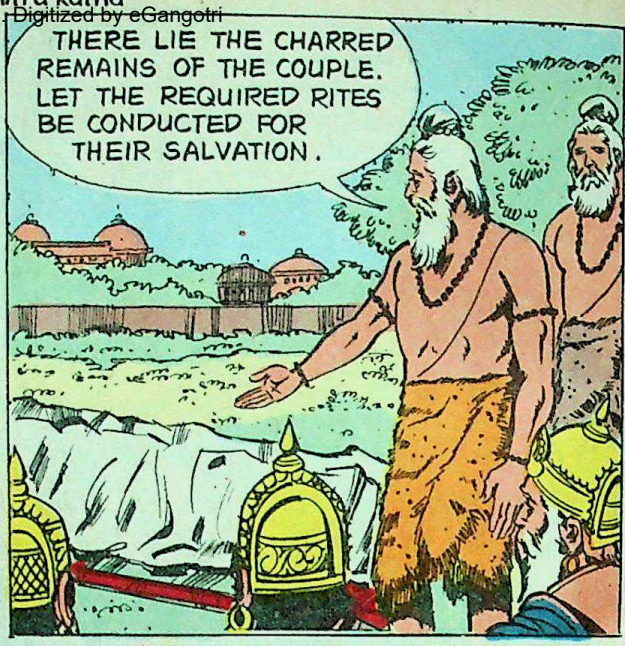

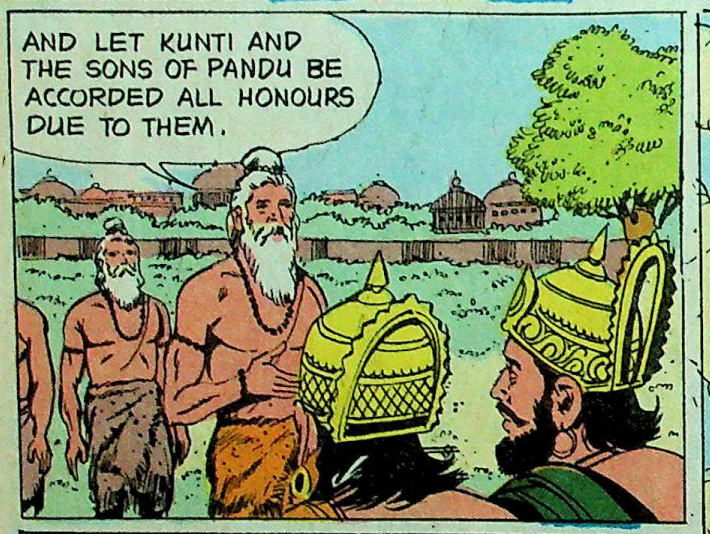

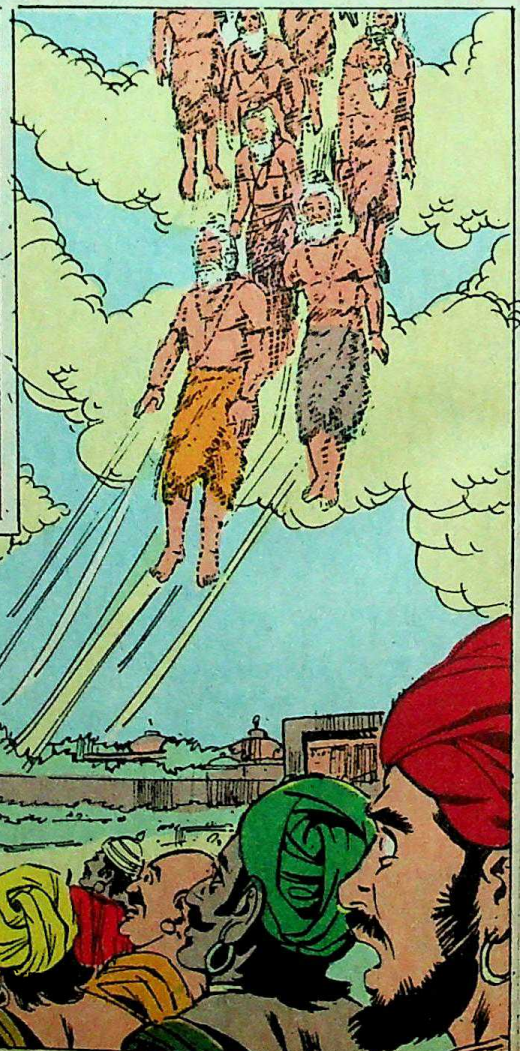

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AFTER CONSULTING BHEESHMA, VIDURA SELECTED A SACRED SPOT FOR THE LAST RITES OF PANDU. THE COURTIERS AND THE CITIZENS THEN COVERED WITH FLOWERS, THE BIER WHICH CARRIED THE REMAINS OF THE KING AND HIS CONSORT, AND DECKED IT WITH RICH HANGINGS AND FRAGRANT GARLANDS.

"THE BIER WAS CARRIED AWAY FROM THE CITY BY MEN, AND THE CORTEGE WAS LED BY PRIESTS, TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF DIRGE AND DRUMS. COMMONERS FOLLOWED THE CORTEGE LAMENTING LOUDLY:

O KING, WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, LEAVING US BEREFT AND DESOLATE?

AND BHEESHMA AND VIDURA AND THE PANDAVAS TOO WEPT ALOUD.

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"THUS THEY REACHED THE EXPANSIVE BANKS OF THE GANGA WHERE THE BIER WAS LAID DOWN.

GUIDED BY THE PRIESTS, THEY CONCLUDED THE FUNERAL RITES AND SET FIRE TO THE REMAINS OF THE BODIES.

" AS THE FLAMES LEAPT UP, AMBALIKA CRIED OUT IN ANGUISH:

O MY SON, MY SON!

"AND WITNESSING THE GRIEF-STRICKEN MOTHER FALL TO THE GROUND, THE CITIZENS WAILED IN DEEP SORROW:

ALAS! ALAS!

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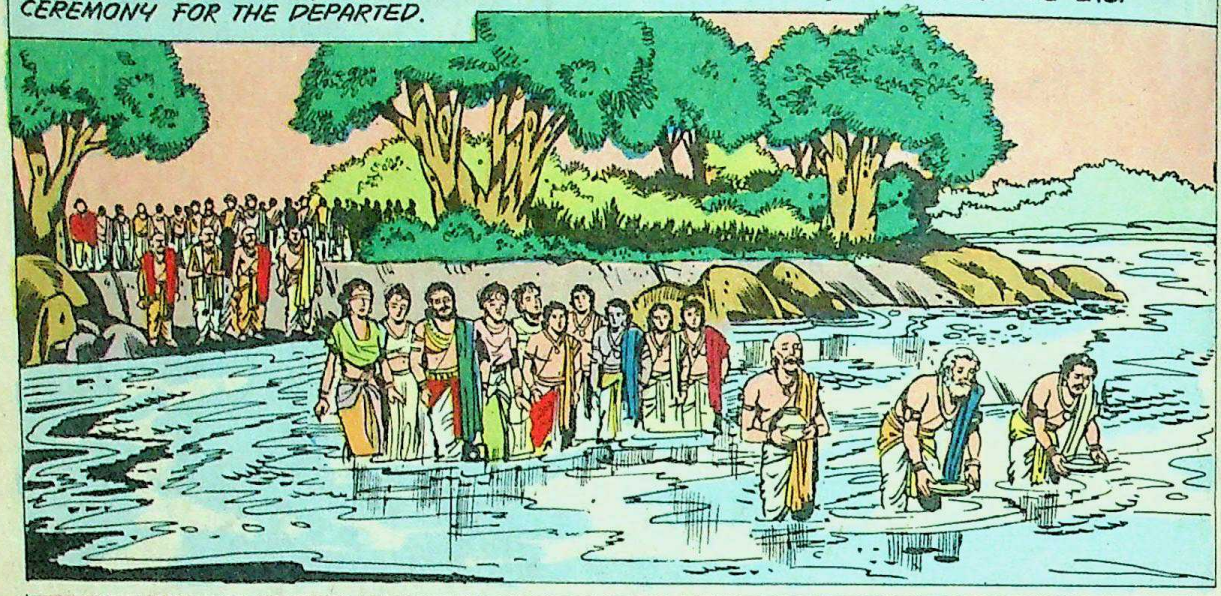
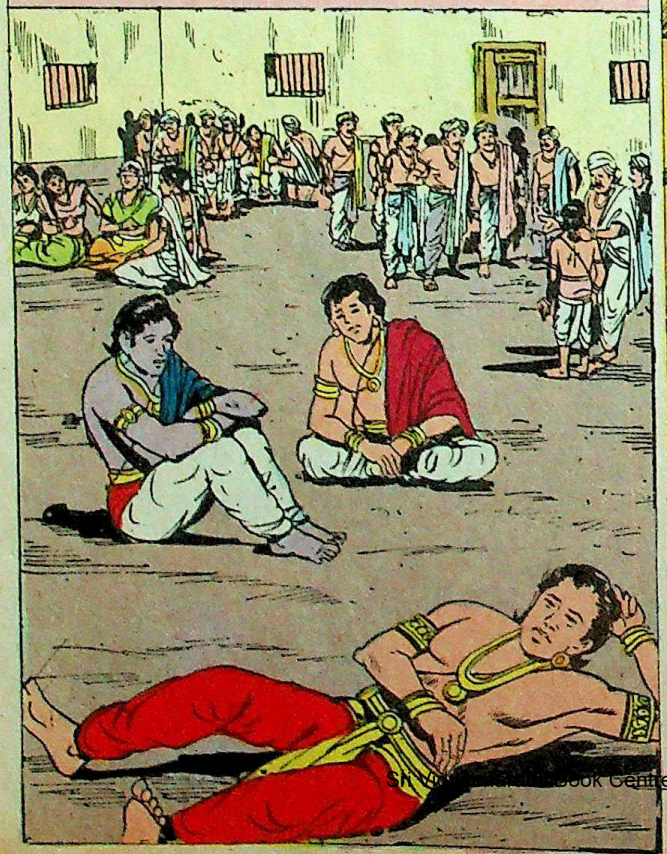
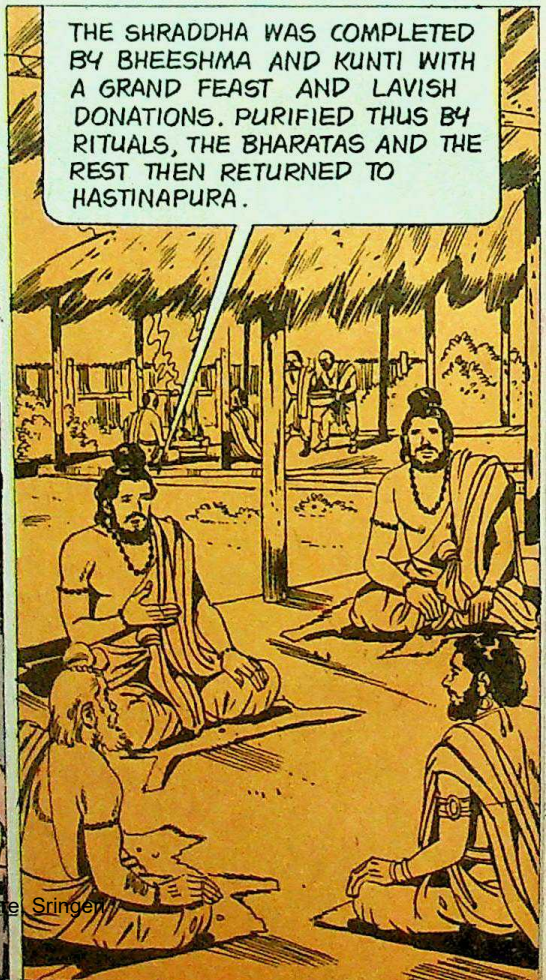
"THE DISTRAUGHT CRY OF KUNTI MOVED THE HEART OF EVEN THE BIRDS AND BEASTS, AND MADE THE WISE BHEESHMA AND VIDURA SAD. WITH TEAR-DIMMED EYES THEY, ALONG WITH DHRITARASHTRA, THE PANDAVAS AND THE KURU LADIES, PERFORMED THE LAST CEREMONY FOR THE DEPARTED.



"THE CITIZENS THEN CONSOLED THE DISTRESSED SONS OF PANDU. YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE, ENGULFED IN SORROW LIKE THE PANDAVAS, MOURNED WITH THEM FOR FULL TWELVE DAYS.



THE SHRADDHA WAS COMPLETED BY BHEESHMA AND KUNTI WITH A GRAND FEAST AND LAVISH DONATIONS. PURIFIED THUS BY RITUALS, THE BHARATAS AND THE REST THEN RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA.



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"THEN MY ESTEEMED GURU VYASA CAME TO SATYAVATI, HIS MOTHER, AND SAID:

OUR DAYS OF PROSPERITY ARE ON THE WANE. DAYS OF CORRUPTION ARE CREEPING IN, ROBBING THE WORLD OF ITS GLOW.

THE WICKEDNESS OF THE KAURAVAS WILL BRING DESTRUCTION UPON THIS WORLD.

THEREFORE GO INTO THE FOREST AND SEEK PEACE THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF YOGA.

"HEEDING THE WORDS OF VYASA, AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF BHEESHMA, SATYAVATI ACCOMPANIED BY AMBIKA AND AMBALIKA, WENT TO THE FOREST.*

*AFTER LEADING THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER TILL THE AGE OF USUALLY 50 YEARS, PEOPLE LIVED IN PLACES AWAY FROM HUMAN HABITATIONS, EITHER ALONE OR IN SMALL GROUPS, GIVING UP THE COMFORTS OF LIFE IN PREPARATION FOR THE FOURTH STAGE — SANNYASA.

IN DUE COURSE, WHILE ENGAGED IN PROFOUND MEDITATION, THE GOOD WOMEN ATTAINED MUKTI.

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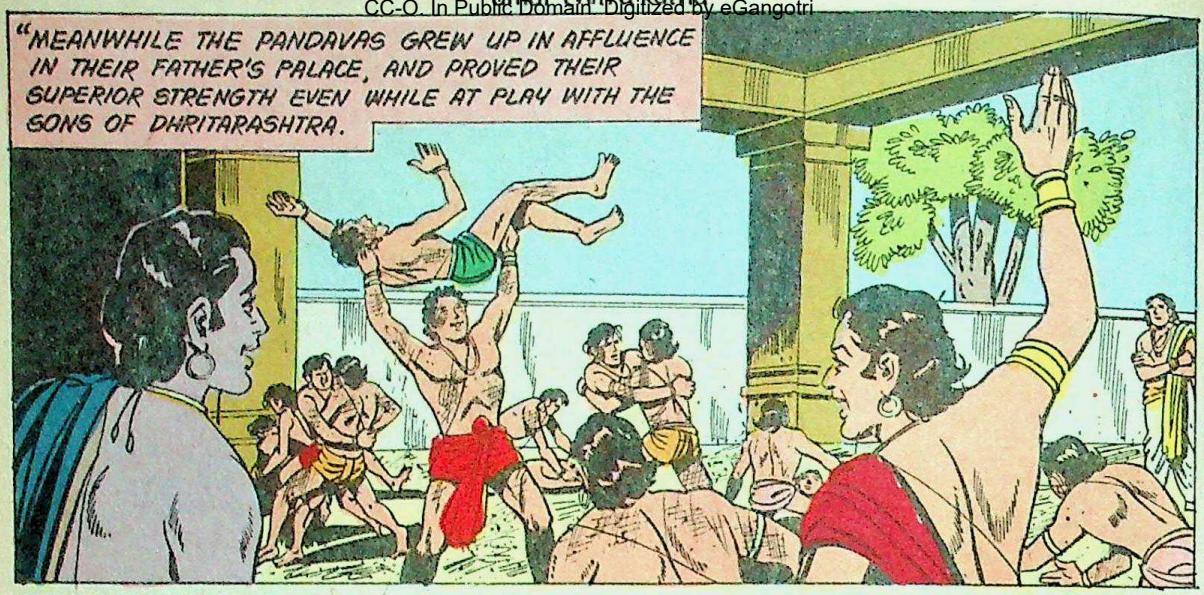

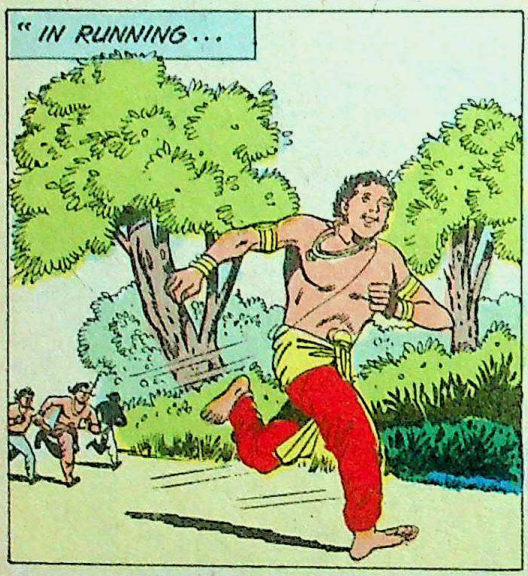

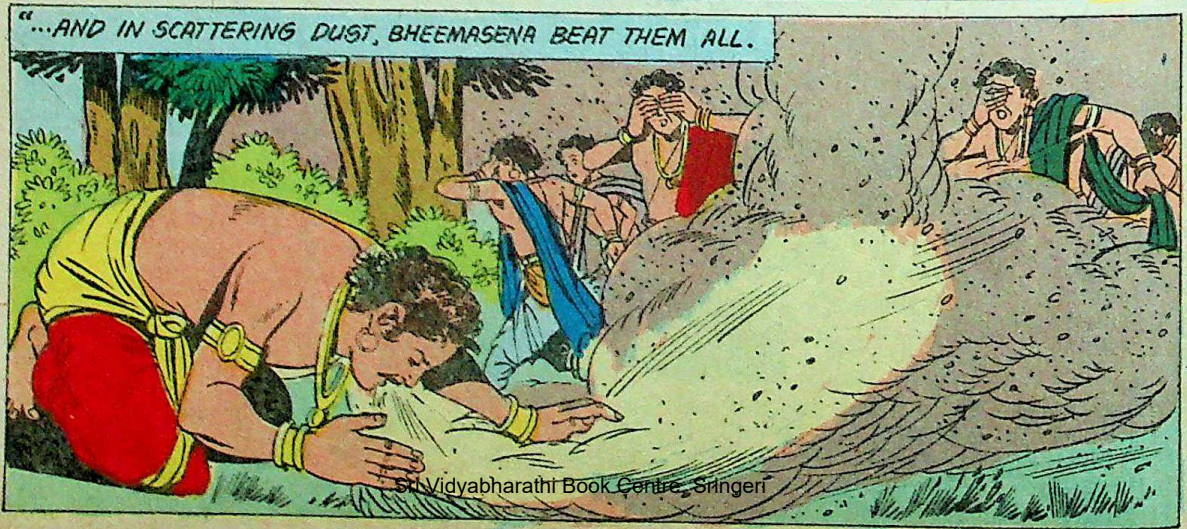

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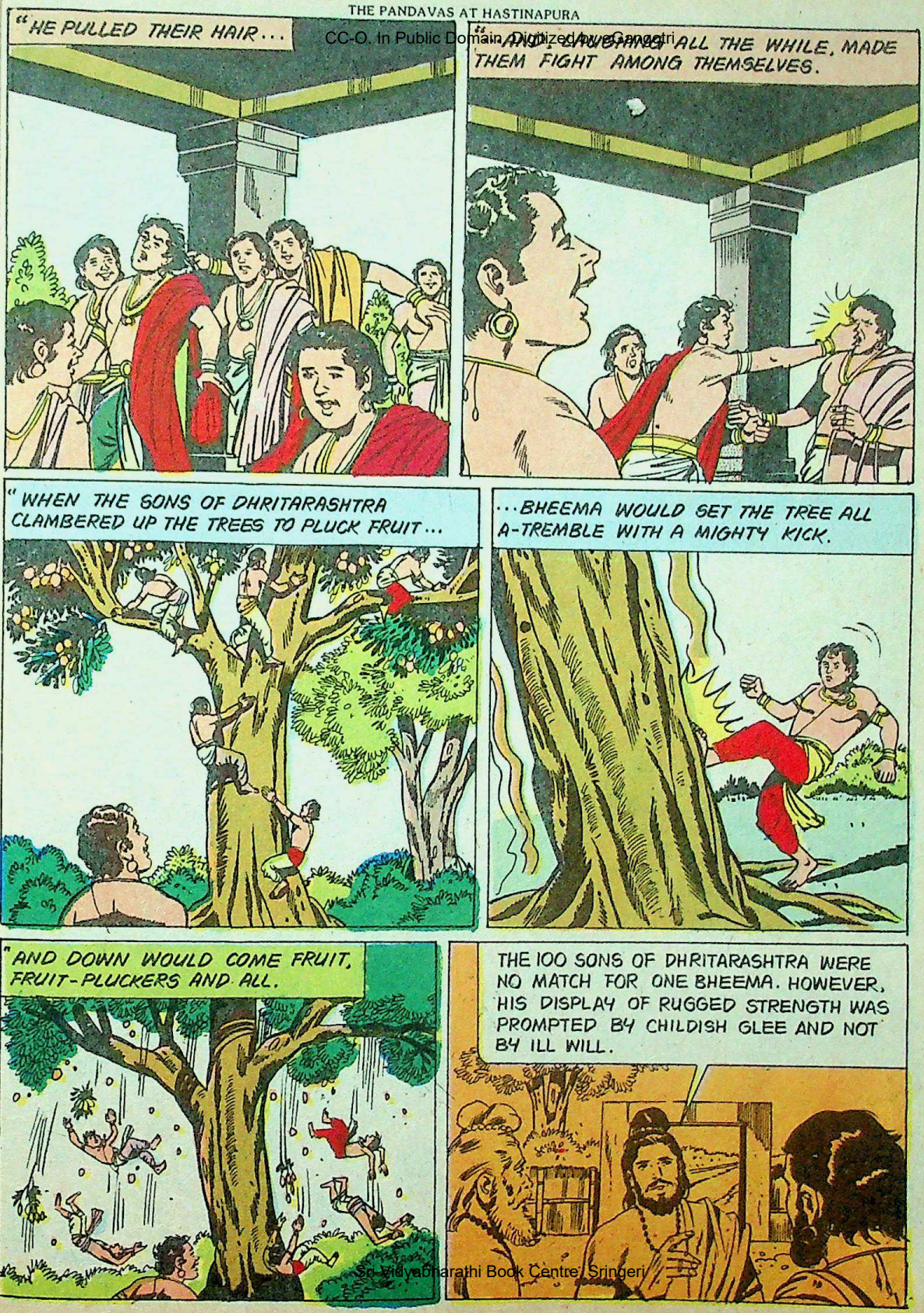

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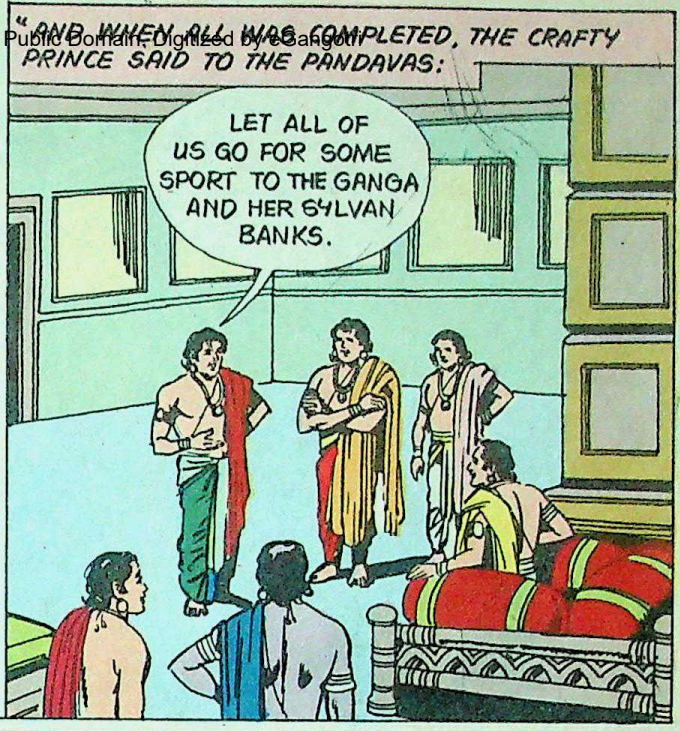
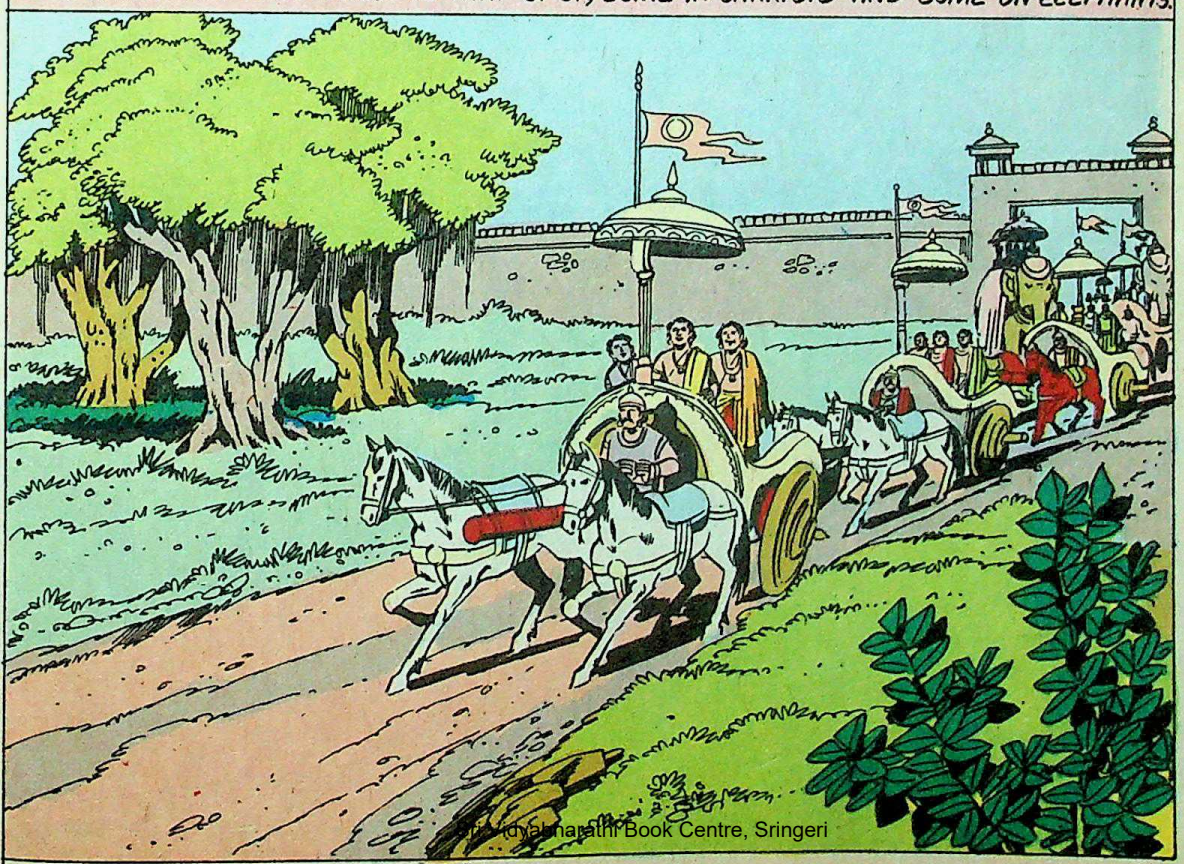
RESOLUTE IN HIS WICKED THOUGHT, DURYODHANA KEPT A SHARP WATCH FOR AN OPPORTUNITY. AND, O MONARCH, AT LENGTH HE SET UP AN ALLURING CAMP FOR WATER SPORTS AT PRAMANAKOTI ON THE BANKS OF THE GANGA. HE HAD IT ADORNED WITH RICH CLOTH HANGINGS AND EMBELLISHED WITH GAY FLAGS. AND THE CUISINE THERE WAS EQUIPPED TO SERVE FOOD AND DRINK OF CHOICE TASTE.

"AND WHEN ALL WAS COMPLETED, THE CRAFTY PRINCE SAID TO THE PANDAVAS:



"WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA AGREED TO IT, THE PANDAVAS AND THE SONS OF DHRITARASHTRA PROCEEDED TO THAT SPOT, SOME IN CHARIOTS AND SOME ON ELEPHANTS.



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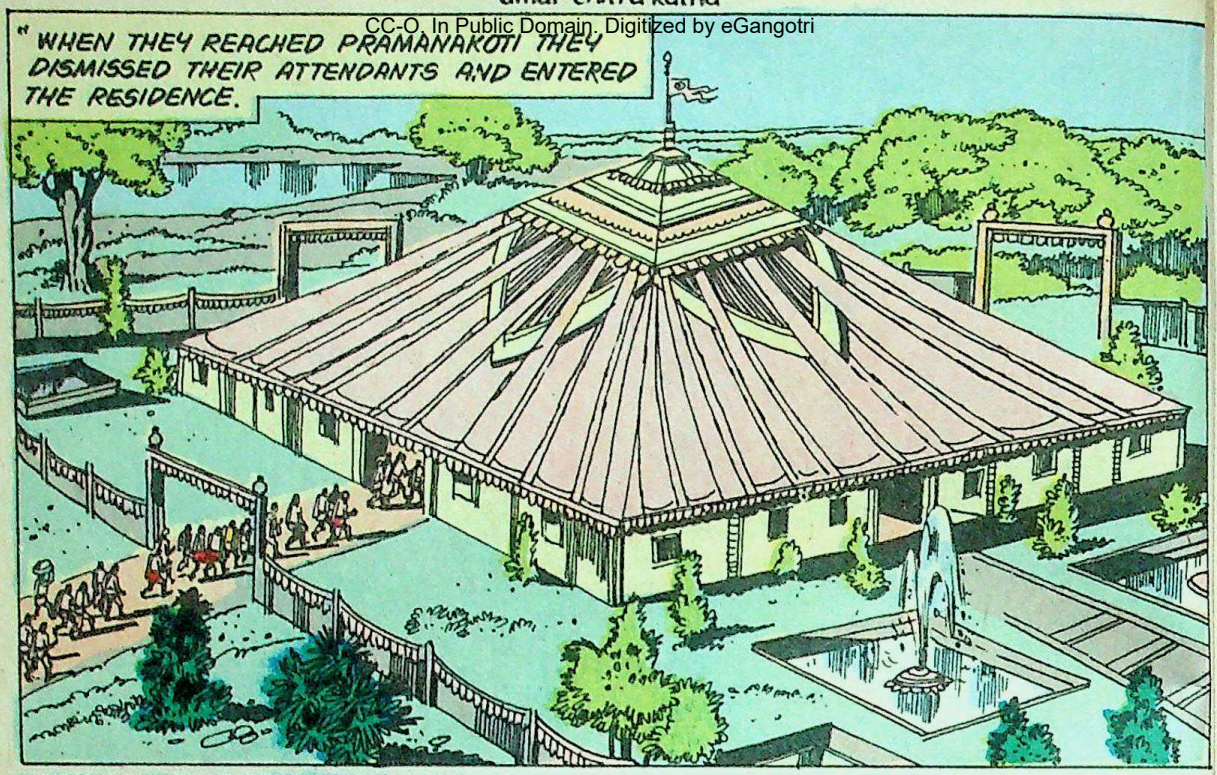

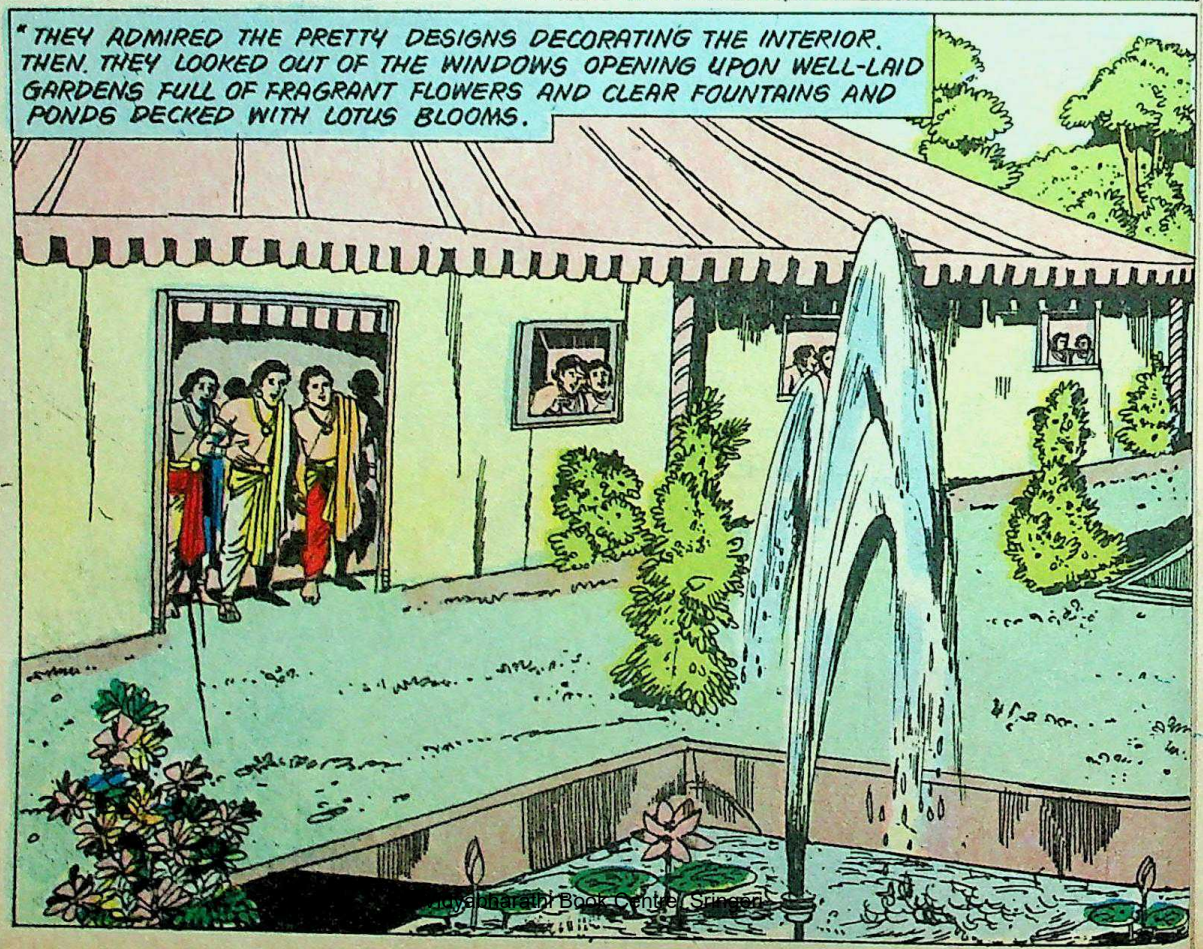

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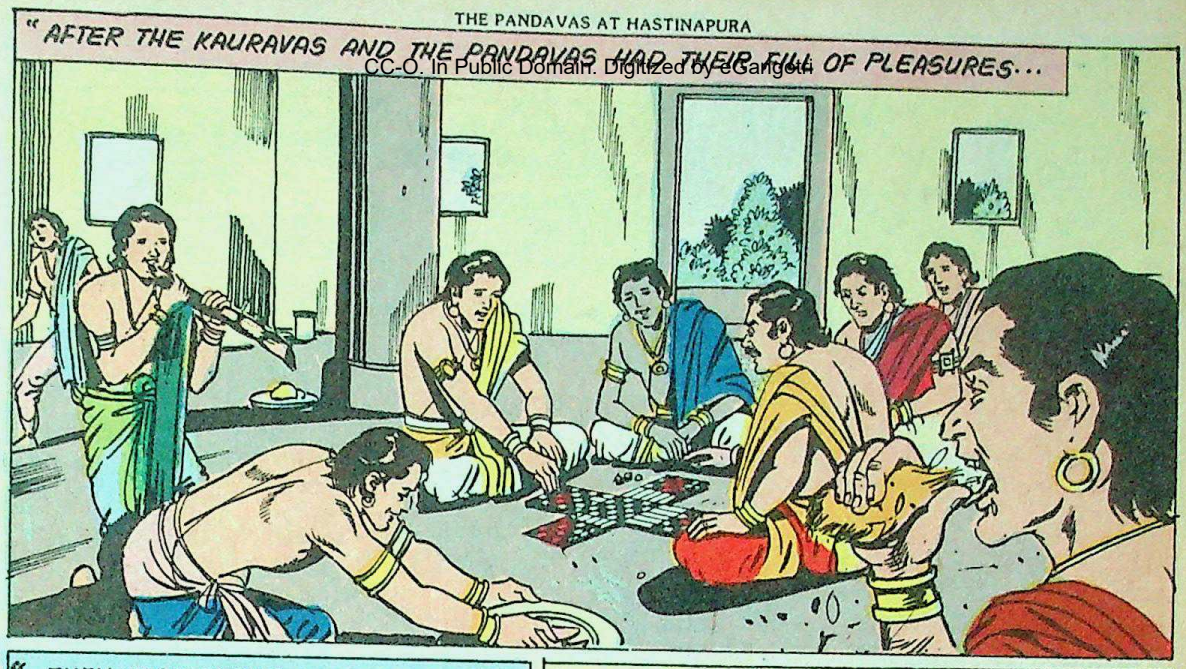

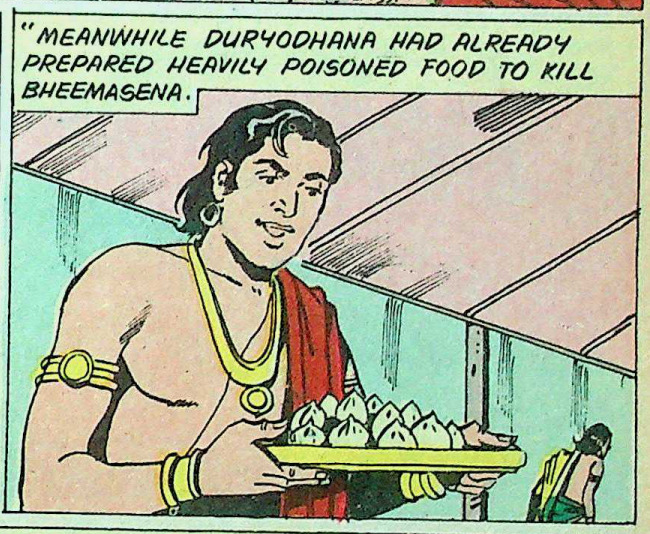

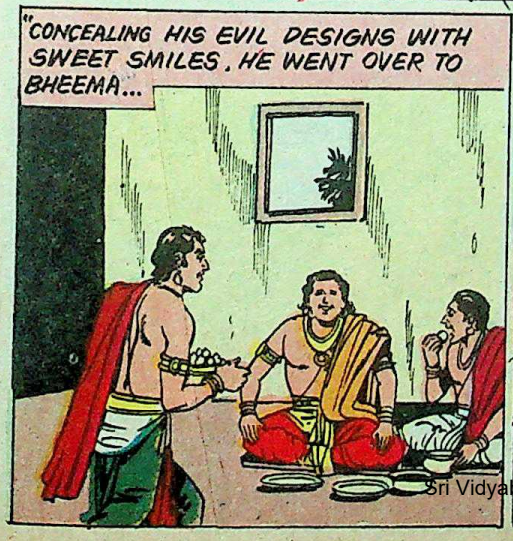

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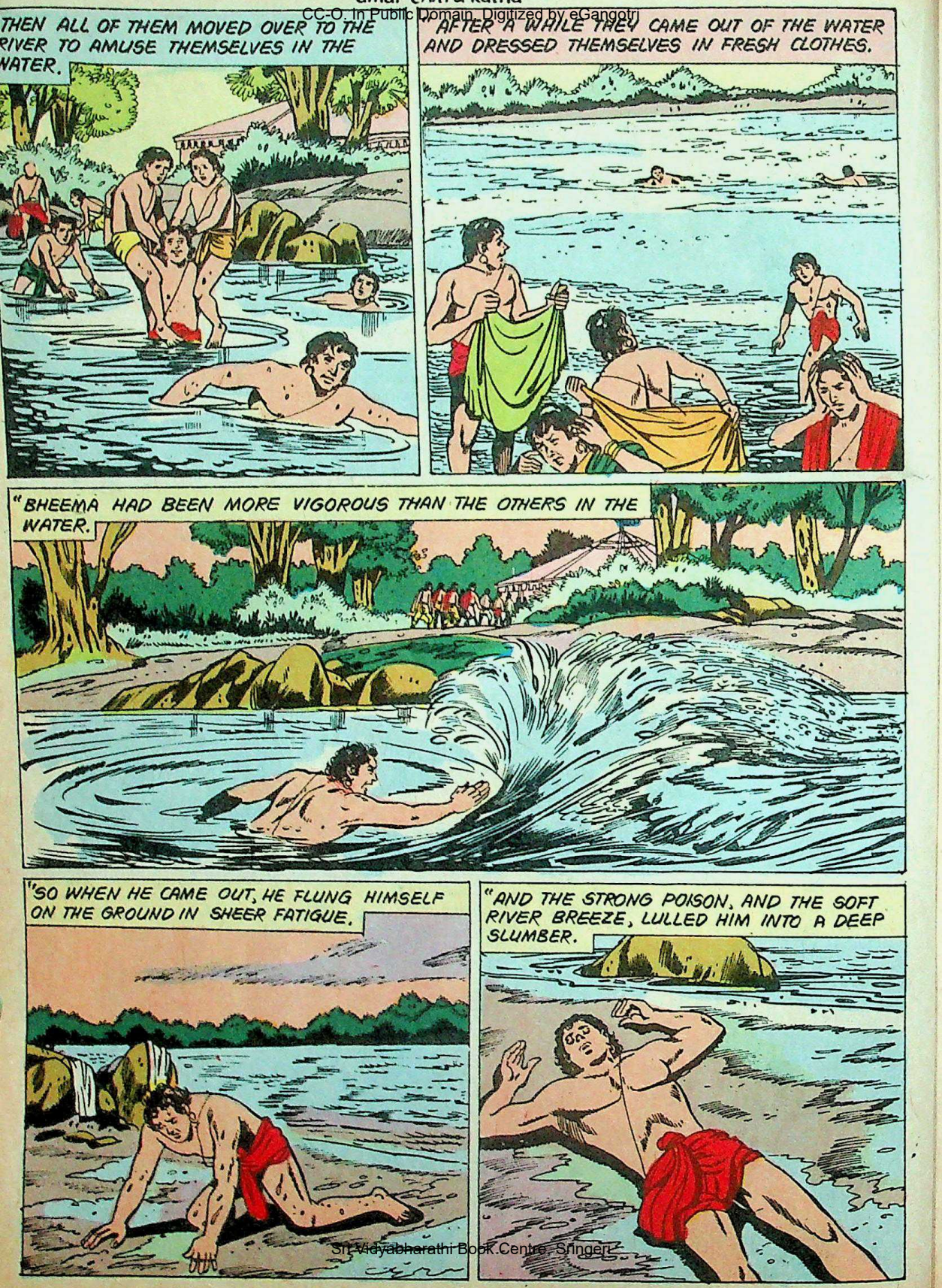

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SEEING THIS DURYODHANA BOUND HIM WITH STRONG REEDS...

...AND ROLLED HIM DOWN INTO THE WATER.

"THE UNCONSCIOUS BHEEMA SANK, DOWN, DOWN...

"...DOWN TO THE DEPTHS OF THE NAGA* KINGDOM.

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* ACCORDING TO MANY SCHOLARS THE NAGAS WERE A RACE OF PEOPLE WITH WHOM THE ARYANS FREELY MIXED.

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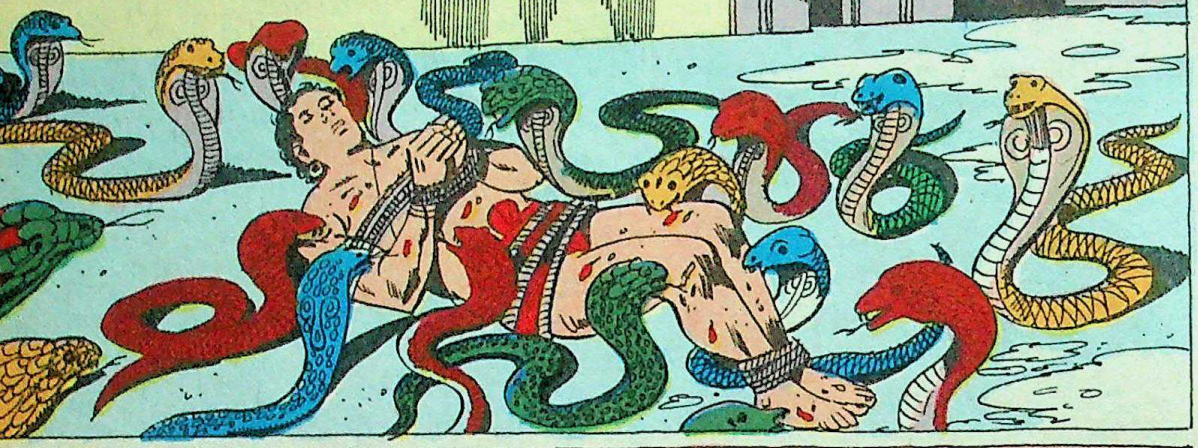
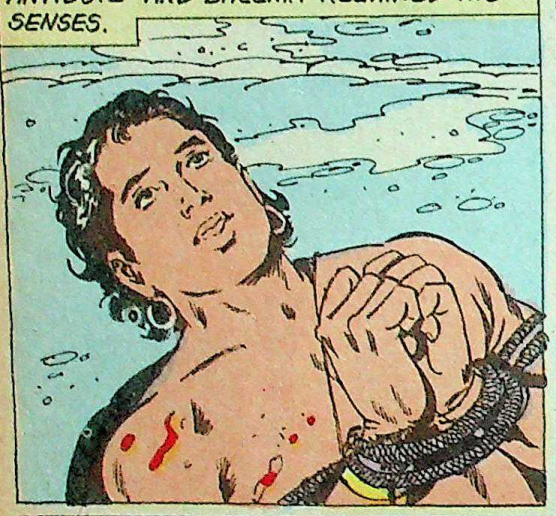
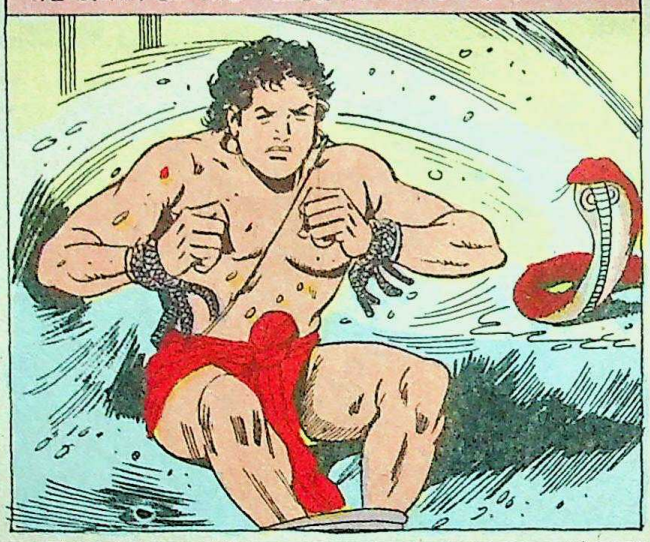
THE NAGAS ATTACKED HIM BY THE THOUSANDS AND BIT IM, RELEASING THE DEADLY POISON FROM THEIR FANGS.



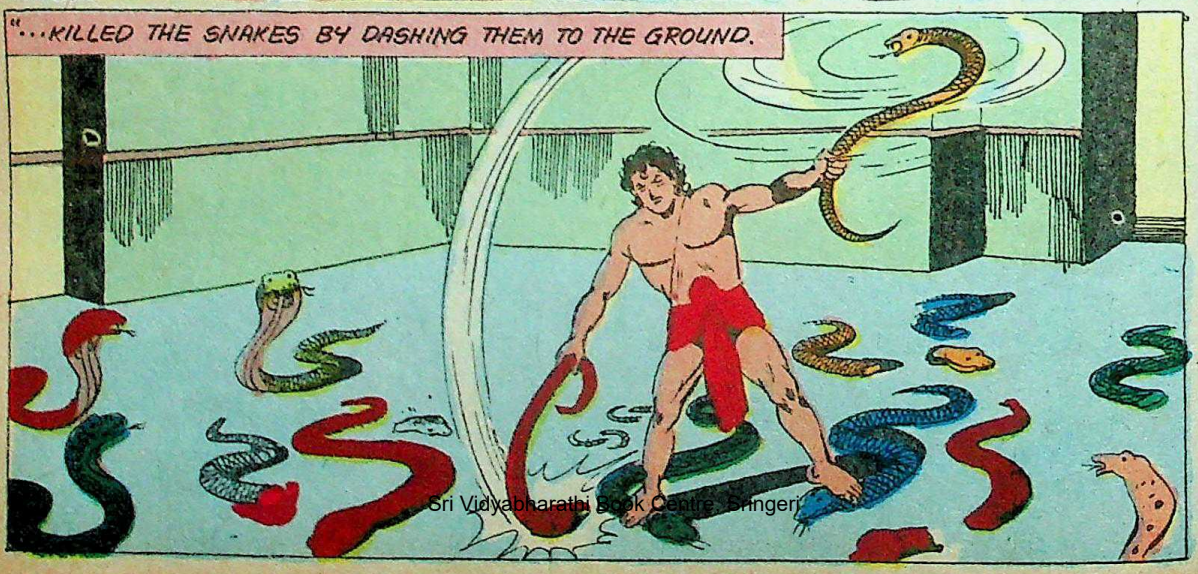
" THE SNAKE-POISON ACTED AS AN ANTIDOTE AND BHEEMA REGAINED HIS SENSES.



" HE SNAPPED THE REEDS THAT BOUND HIM AND...



"...KILLED THE SNAKES BY DASHING THEM TO THE GROUND.



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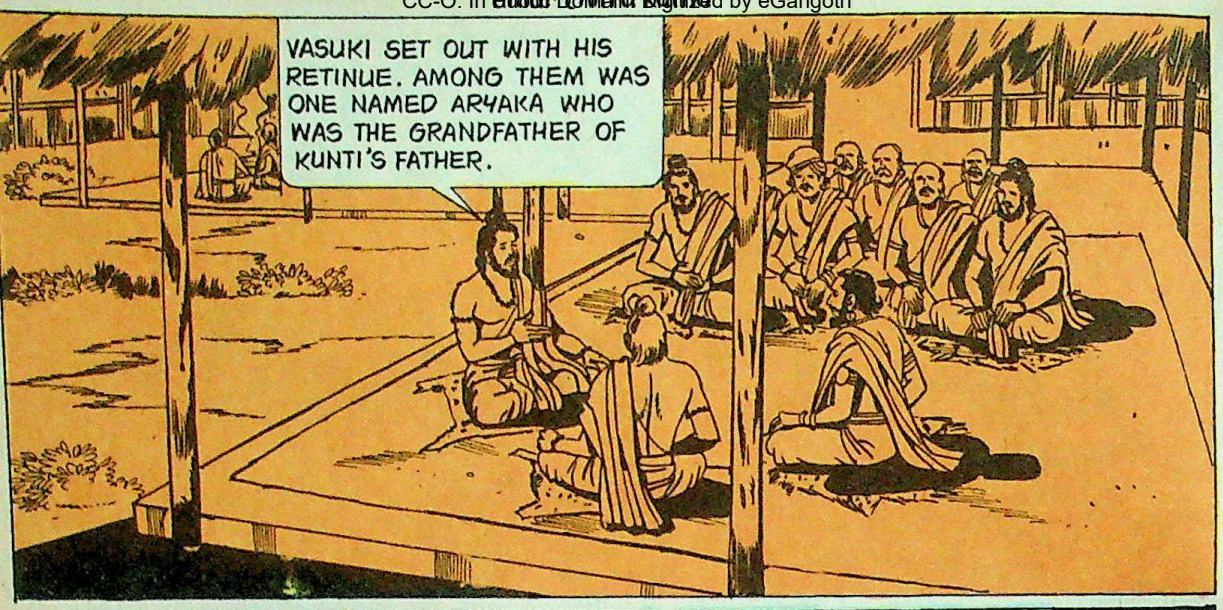

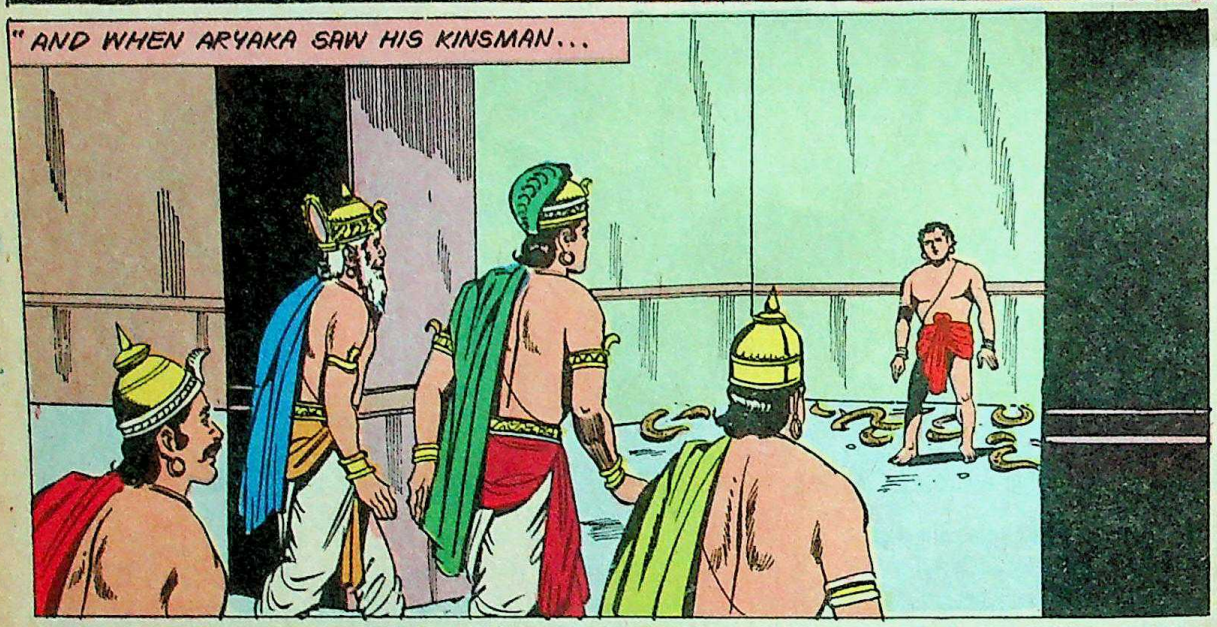

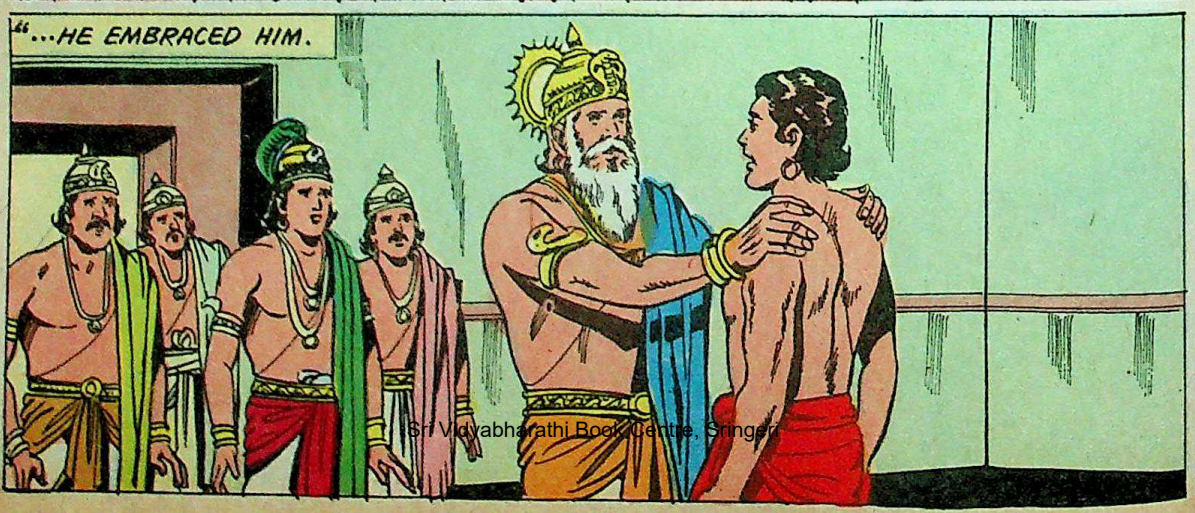

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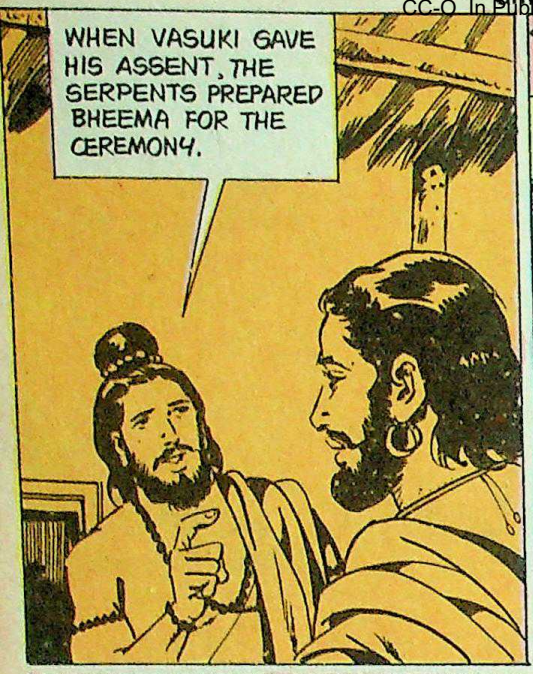

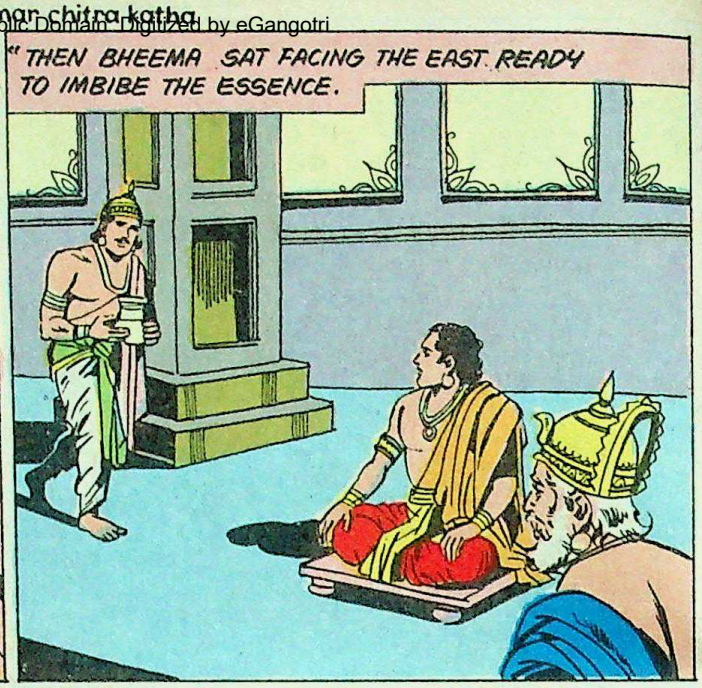

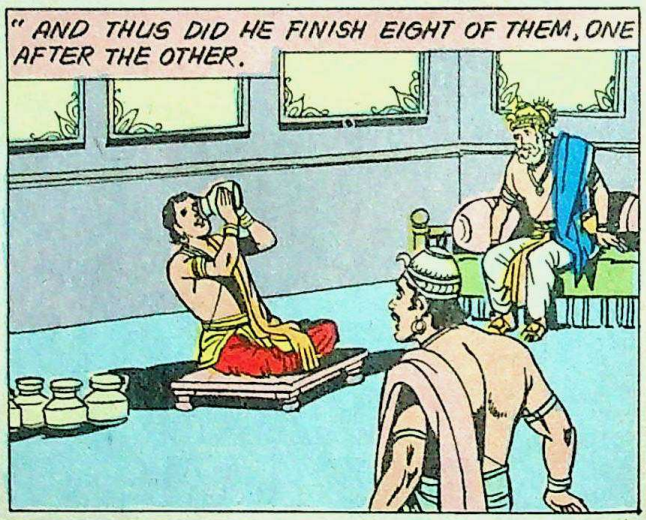

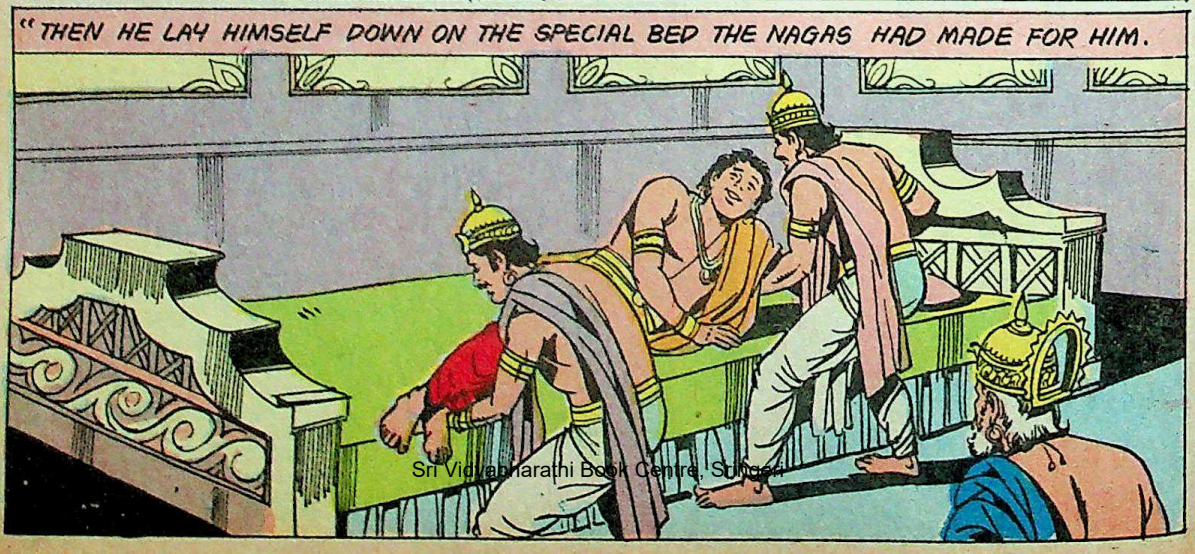

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"MEANWHILE, AFTER HAVING HAD THEIR SUPPER OF PLAY, THE PANDAVAS AND KAURAVAS LEFT THE CAMP.

"THE PANDAVAS BELIEVED THAT BHEEMA HAD GONE AHEAD OF THEM, AND DURYODHANA WAS FULL OF GLEE THAT BHEEMA WAS NOT WITH THEM.

THE HONEST YUDHISHTHIRA, O MONARCH, BELIEVED OTHERS TO BE AS HONEST AS HIMSELF.

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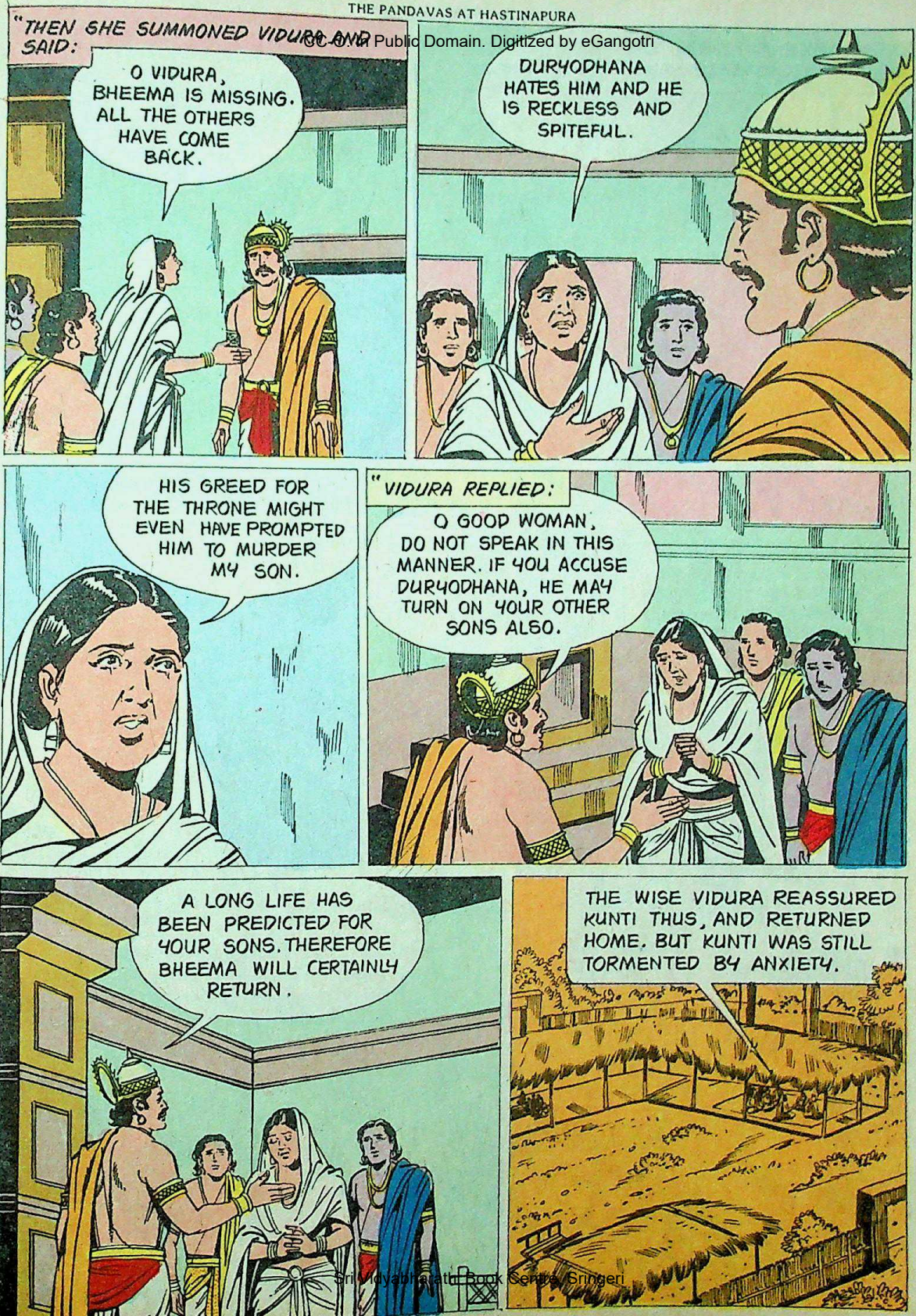

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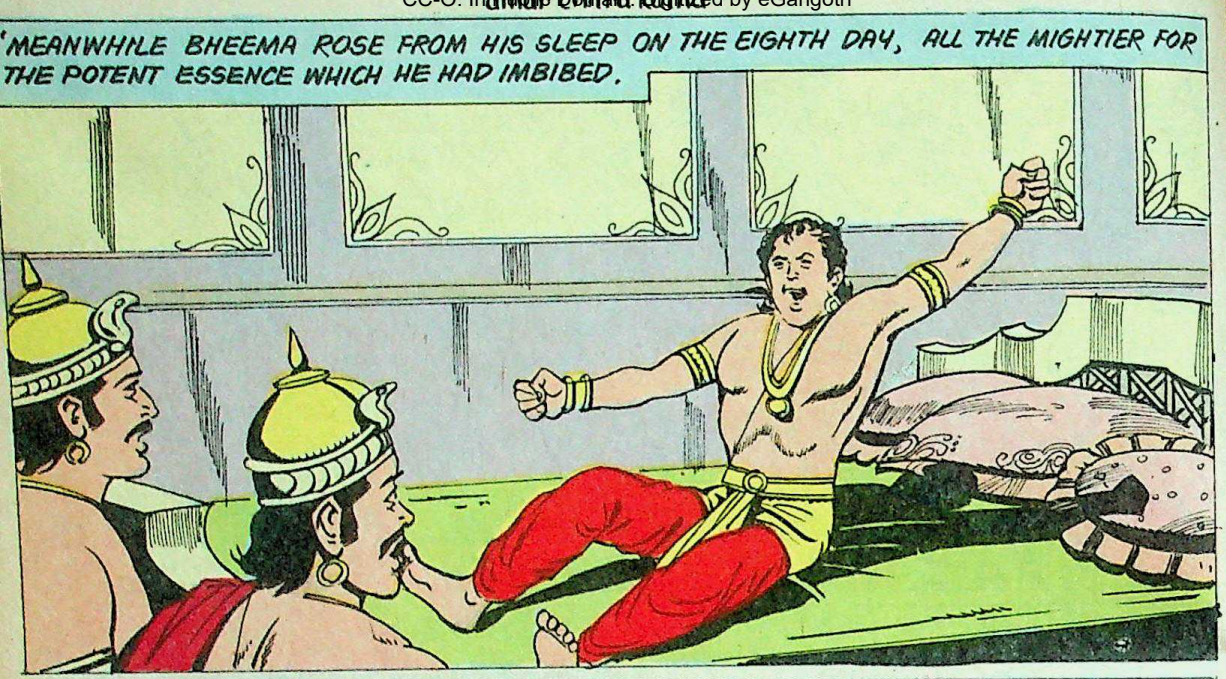

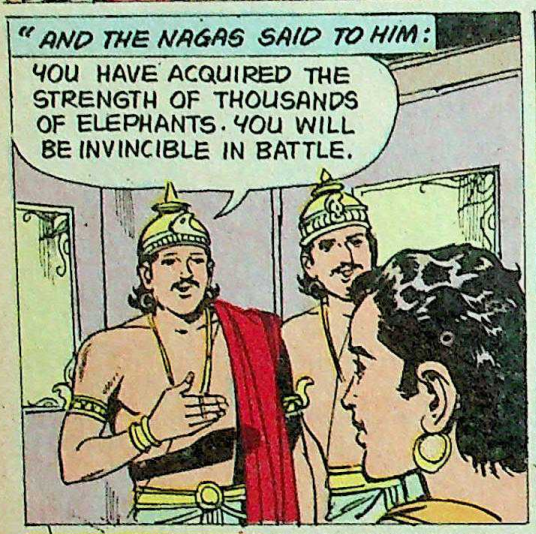

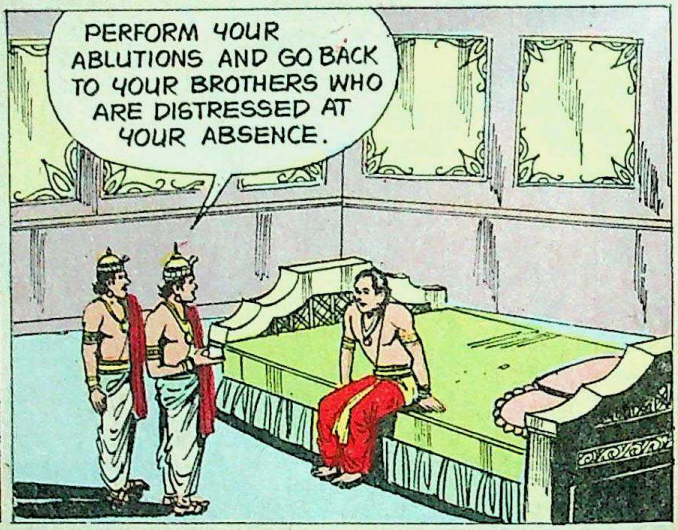

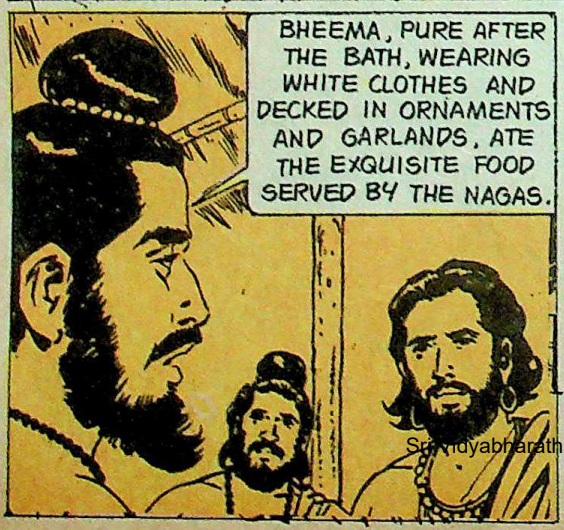

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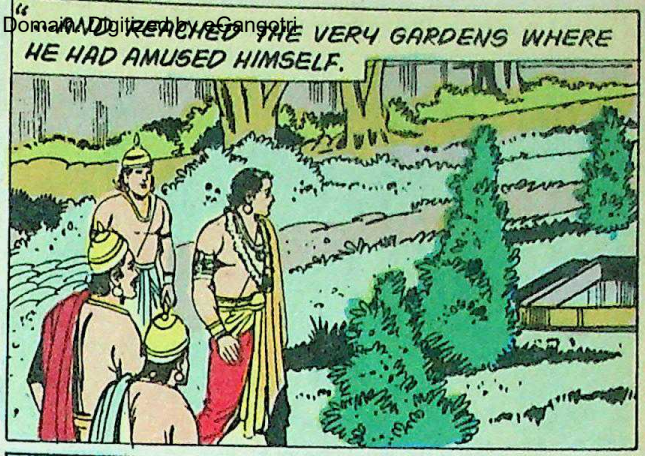

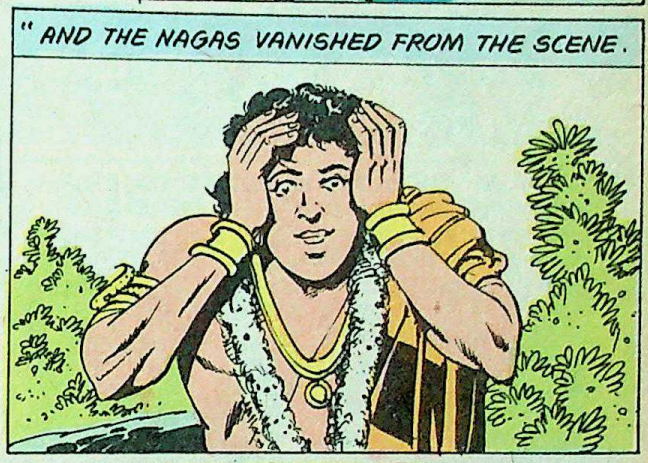

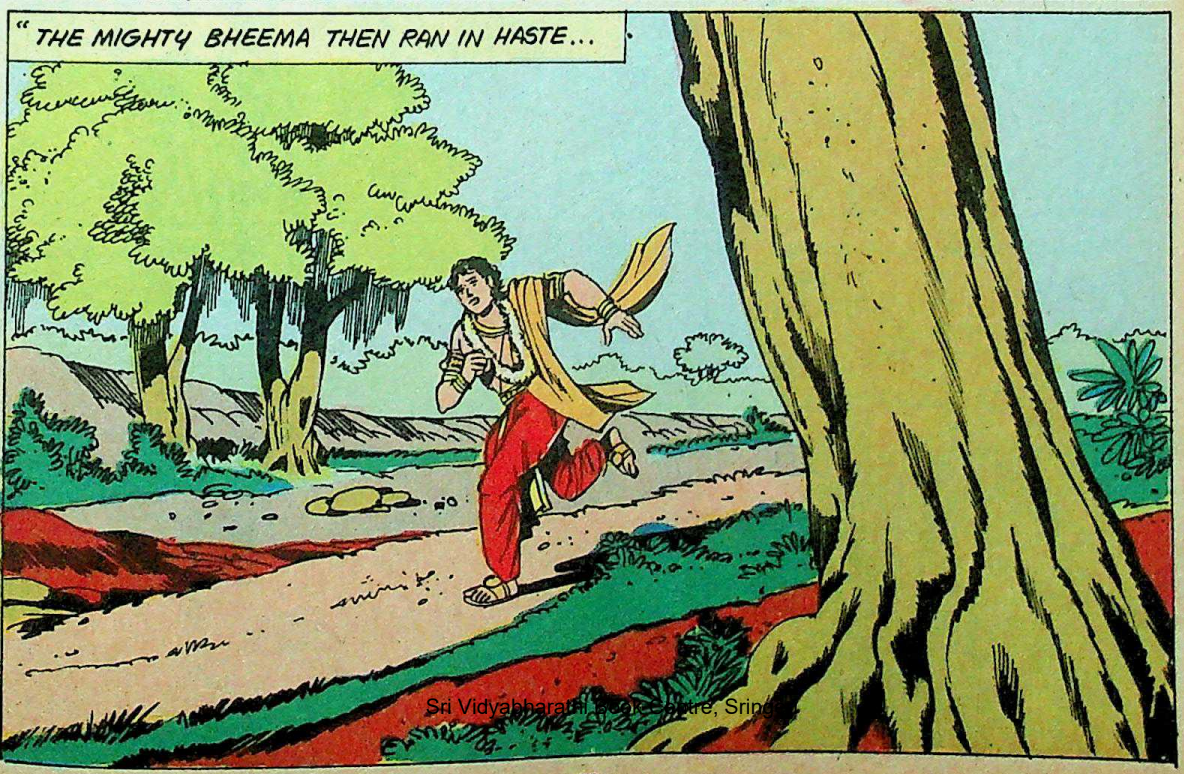

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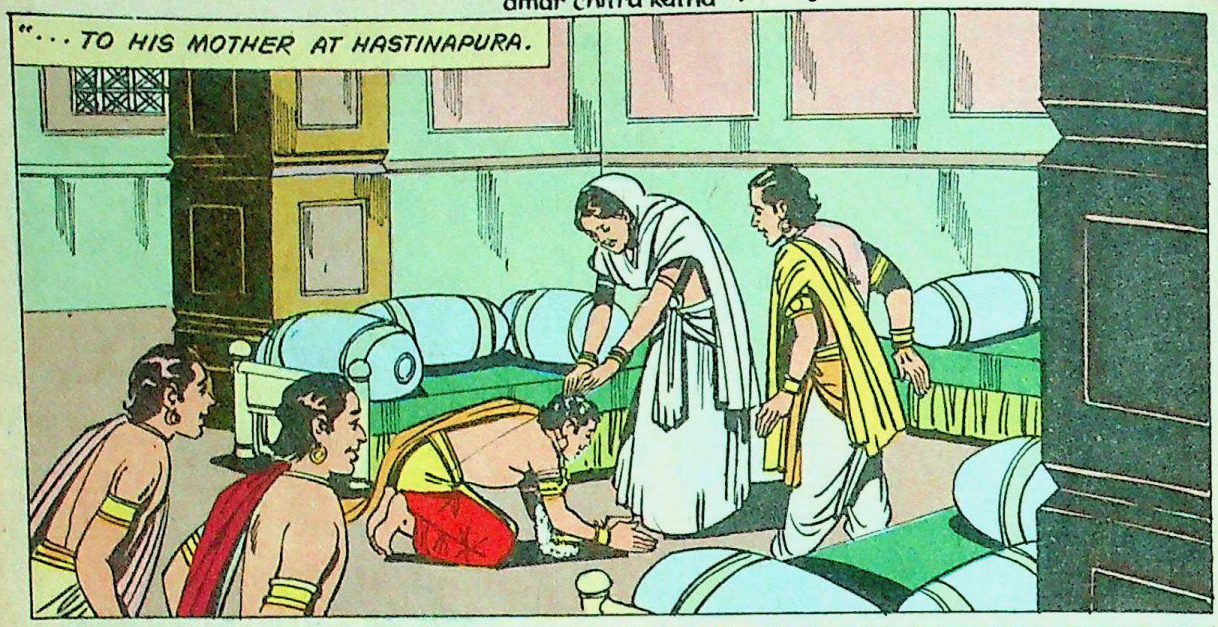

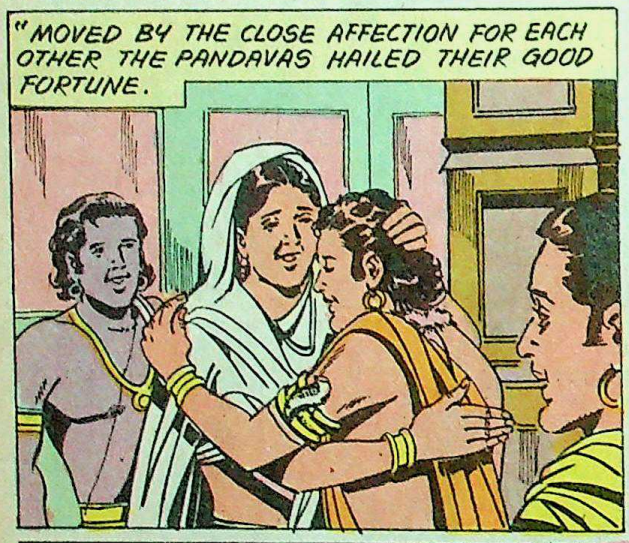

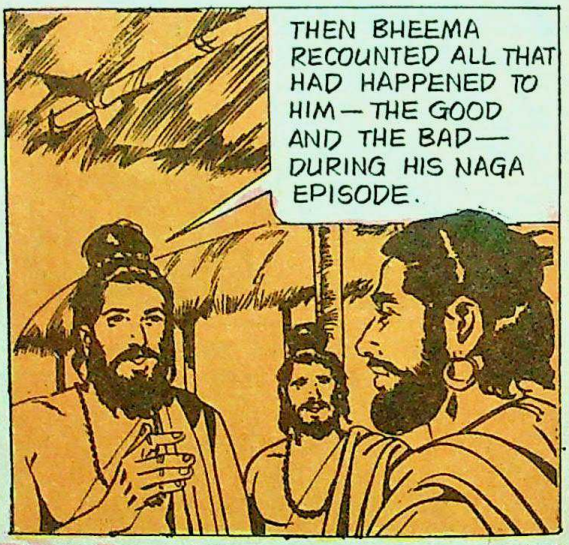

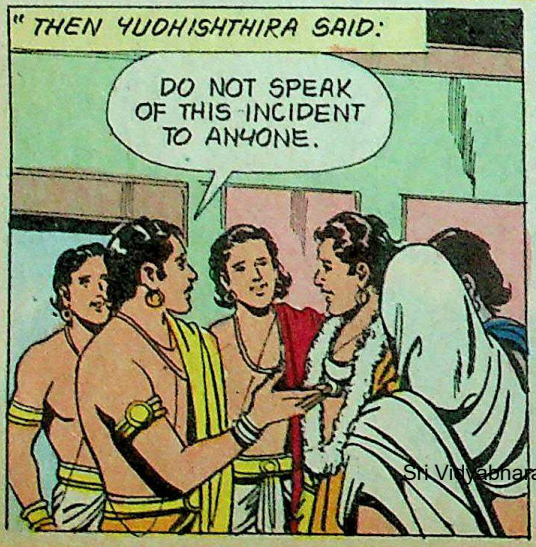

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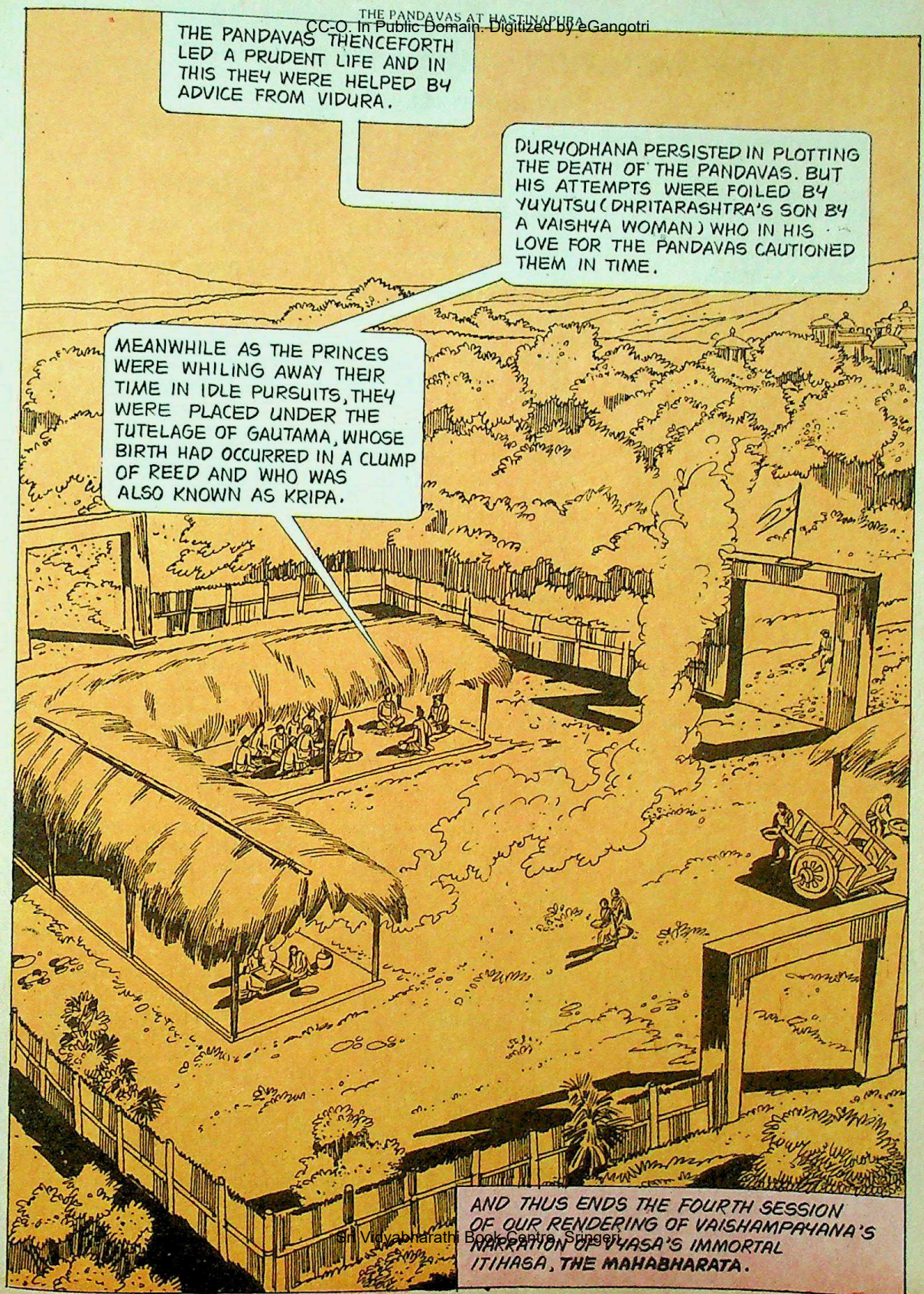

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PRONUNCIATION GUIDE AND GLOSSARY

Mahabharata – 4

Pg

1. **MAHABHARATA** महाभारतं :
HASTINAPURA हस्तिनापुरं
Capital of the KURUS on the banks of GANGA
VEDAVYASA वेदव्यास :
Literally the man who analysed and compiled the vedas — RIG, YAJUS, SAMA and ATHARVA.
BHARATA भारता :
A descendant of king BHARATA who was the son of DUSHYANTA and SHAKUNTALA
VAISHAMPAYANA वैशम्पायन:
JANAMEJAYA जनमेजय :
SARPA SATRA सर्पसत्र :
PANDAVA पाण्डवा :
The five sons of PANDU by his two wives KUNTI and MADRI.
KAURAVA कौरवा :
Literally the descendent of king KURU but by usage the word has acquired the special meaning of the sons of DHRITARASHTRA as distinguished from the sons of PANDU.
PANDU पाण्डु :
Son of VEDAVYASA and AMBALIKA
MADRI माद्री :
The second wife of PANDU and the mother of the last two PANDAVAs.
SHATASHRINGA शतशृंग :
KUNTI कुन्ती :
The first wife of PANDU and the mother of the first three PANDAVAs.
2. **RISHI** ऋषि :
A sage
3. **BHEESHMA** भीष्म :
Son of SHANTANU and GANGA — Lifelong celibate. He and his stepmother SATYAVATI ensured the continuity of the race by persuading VEDAVYASA to beget DHRITARASHTRA and PANDU through AMBIKA and AMBALIKA respectively.
DHRITARASHTRA धृतराष्ट्र :
Son of VEDAVYASA and AMBIKA—Husband of GANDHARI and father of DURYODHANA and his ninety-nine brothers. Congenitally blind.
VIDURA विदुर :
Son of VEDAVYASA and AMBIKA's SHOODRA maid.
SATYAVATI सत्यवती :
Mother of VEDAVYASA by sage PARASHARA — Mother of CHITRANGADA and VICHITRAVEERYA by SHANTANU.
AMBIKA अम्बिका :
Widow of VICHITRAVEERYA and mother of DHRITARASHTRA by VEDAVYASA
AMBALIKA अम्बालिका :
Widow of VICHITRAVEERYA and mother of PANDU by VEDAVYASA
GANDHARI गान्धारी :
Wife of DHRITARASHTRA — mother of DURYODHANA and his ninety-nine brothers. She blindfolded herself out of devotion and loyalty to her blind husband.
4. **KURU** कुरु :
A descendant of the great king KURU who had sanctified the land known as KURUKSHETRA.
BRAHMACHARI ब्रह्मचारिन् :
One who practises celibacy as part of the disciplined quest of knowledge.
5. **YUDHISHTHIRA** युधिष्ठिर :
The first of the PANDAVAs — KUNTI's son by DHARMA.
DHARMA धर्म :
The presiding deity of righteous behaviour.
VAYU वायु :
The presiding deity of wind.
BHEEMASENA भीमसेन :
The second of the PANDAVAs — KUNTI's son by VAYU
ARJUNA अर्जुन :
The third of the PANDAVAs — KUNTI's son by INDRA
INDRA इन्द्र :
King of the DEVAs.
NAKULA नकुल :
The fourth of the PANDAVAs — MADRI's son by the ASHWINs
SAHADEVA सहदेव :
The fifth of the PANDAVAs — MADRI's son by the ASHWINs
ASHWIN अश्विनौ :
The presiding deities (twins) of medicine
9. **GANGA** गंगा :
The river considered sacred because of its celestial origin.
10. **SHRADDHA** श्राद्ध :
The concluding ritual following the death of a relative which assures him/her of salvation.
11. **MUKTI** मुक्ति :
Deliverance of the spirit from the body.
14. **DURYODHANA** दुर्योधन :
15. **PRAMANAKOTI** प्रमाणकोटि :
19. **NAGA KINGDOM** नाग लोक :
The world of the NAGAs — co-ordinate with the nether region.
20. **NAGA** नागा :
Literally the serpents—Also refers to the race of snake — worshippers or a race which has the snake for its totem. Perhaps the ancestors of the modern inhabitants of India's north-eastern state Nagaland.
21. **VASUKI** वासुकि :
22. **ARYAKA** आर्यक :
31. **GAUTAMA** गौतम:
KRIPA कृप :
ITIHASA इतिहास :
An epic. Literally "And so indeed it was".

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MAHABHARATA-5

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Enter Drona

VEDA VYASA'S EPIC ON THE BHARATA RACE WAS FIRST RECITED IN PUBLIC, BY HIS DISCIPLE VAISHAMPAYANA, AT THE BEHEST OF THE AGELESS SEER VYASA HIMSELF.

THE RECITAL TOOK PLACE IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF KING JANAMEJAYA— GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE GRANDSON OF VYASA— AND THE MANY LEARNED SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA SATRA.

THE FOURTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S MAHABHARATA BEGAN WITH THE ARRIVAL OF KUNTI AND THE PANDAVAS AT HASTINAPURA; WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE GROWING ANIMOSITY OF THE KAURAVA DURYODHANA TOWARDS HIS COUSINS THE PANDAVAS; AND ENDED WITH DHRITARASHTRA, THE FATHER OF DURYODHANA, PLACING ALL THE PRINCES UNDER THE TUTELEGE OF KRIPACHARYA.

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FOR PRONUNCIATION AND MEANING OF SANSKRIT WORDS AND PROPER NAMES, PLEASE SEE PAGE 32.

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O SAGE, TELL ME OF KRIPA AND HOW HE ACQUIRED HIS WEAPONS.

O MONARCH, KRIPA, AND HIS TWIN SISTER, KRIPI, WERE BORN IN A CLUMP OF REED FROM THE SEED OF SHARADWAN, THE SON OF GAUTAMA. ONE OF SHANTANU'S MEN FOUND THE TWINS AND BROUGHT THEM TO THE PALACE, WHERE THE KING REARED THEM AS HIS OWN CHILDREN.

" AND LATER WHEN SHARADWAN, AN EXCELLENT WIELDER OF WEAPONS HIMSELF, LEARNT WHERE THE TWINS WERE, HE CAME TO SHANTANU'S PALACE...

" ... AND BECAME KRIPA'S INSTRUCTOR IN THE SCIENCE OF WEAPONS.

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"KRIPA MASTERED THE SKILLS AND IMPARTED THEM TO THE KAURAVAS, THE PANDAVAS, THE YADAVAS AND MANY OTHER PRINCES WHO CAME THERE FROM OTHER KINGDOMS.

BUT BHEESHMA, WHO WANTED ONLY THE BEST OF WARRIORS AS GURU FOR HIS GRAND-SONS, APPOINTED DRONA AS THEIR INSTRUCTOR.

O SAGE, TELL ME OF DRONA AND HOW HE GAINED HIS SKILLS. HOW DID HE COME TO THE LAND OF THE KURUS? TELL ME IN DETAIL.

DRONA SPRANG FROM THE SEED OF THE MIGHTY SAGE BHARADWAJA, AND HE WAS NAMED DRONA BECAUSE HE WAS BORN IN ONE.

BHARADWAJA HAD IMPARTED THE SECRET OF THE FIERY AGNEYA MISSILE TO THE GREAT RISHI AGNIVESHA HIMSELF.

THE FIRE-BORN RISHI IN TIME TAUGHT DRONA THE SECRET OF THAT MISSILE AND MANY OTHER MISSILES.

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"MEANWHILE PRISHATA, THE KING OF NORTHERN PANCHALA AND A FRIEND OF BHARADWAJA, SENT HIS SON, DRUPADA, TO THE SAGE. THE BOY BECAME DRONA'S COMPANION IN PLAY...

"... AS IN STUDIES.

"IN DUE COURSE, PRISHATA DIED AND DRUPADA BECAME THE KING OF THE PANCHALAS.

"AROUND THE SAME TIME, BHARADWAJA TOO DIED; AND DRONA, NOW A FLAWLESS SCHOLAR OF THE VEDAS, MARRIED KRIPI, THE DAUGHTER OF SHARADWAN AND THE SISTER OF KRIPA.

"IN TIME, A SON WAS BORN TO THEM AND THE MOMENT HE WAS BORN, HE NEIGHED LIKE THE CELESTIAL STEED UCHCHAISHRAVAS. AND AS HIS CRY ROSE TO THE SKIES, A VOICE FROM THE REALMS ABOVE SAID:

THIS CHILD SHALL BE KNOWN BY THE NAME OF ASHWATTHAMA.

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"THEN, O MONARCH, DRONA LEARNT THAT PARASHURAMA, THE SON OF JAMADAGNI, SUPREME IN LEARNING AS IN WARFARE, AND THE SCOURGE OF HIS ENEMIES, WAS GIVING AWAY HIS ACQUISITIONS TO DESERVING BRAHMANAS. MOVED BY HOPE AND AMBITION, DRONA SET OUT FOR THE MAHENDRA MOUNTAINS WHERE THE SAGE DWELT.

"AND WHEN HE ARRIVED THERE AND BEHELD PARASHURAMA...

"...HE FIRST PROSTRATED HIMSELF BEFORE THE SAGE...

"...AND THEN SAID:

I AM DRONA—A BRAHMANA BY BIRTH AND THE OFFSPRING OF SAGE BHARADWAJA, BUT NOT OF A WOMAN.

"ON HEARING HIS WORDS THE SAGE ASKED:

O BRAHMANA, WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?

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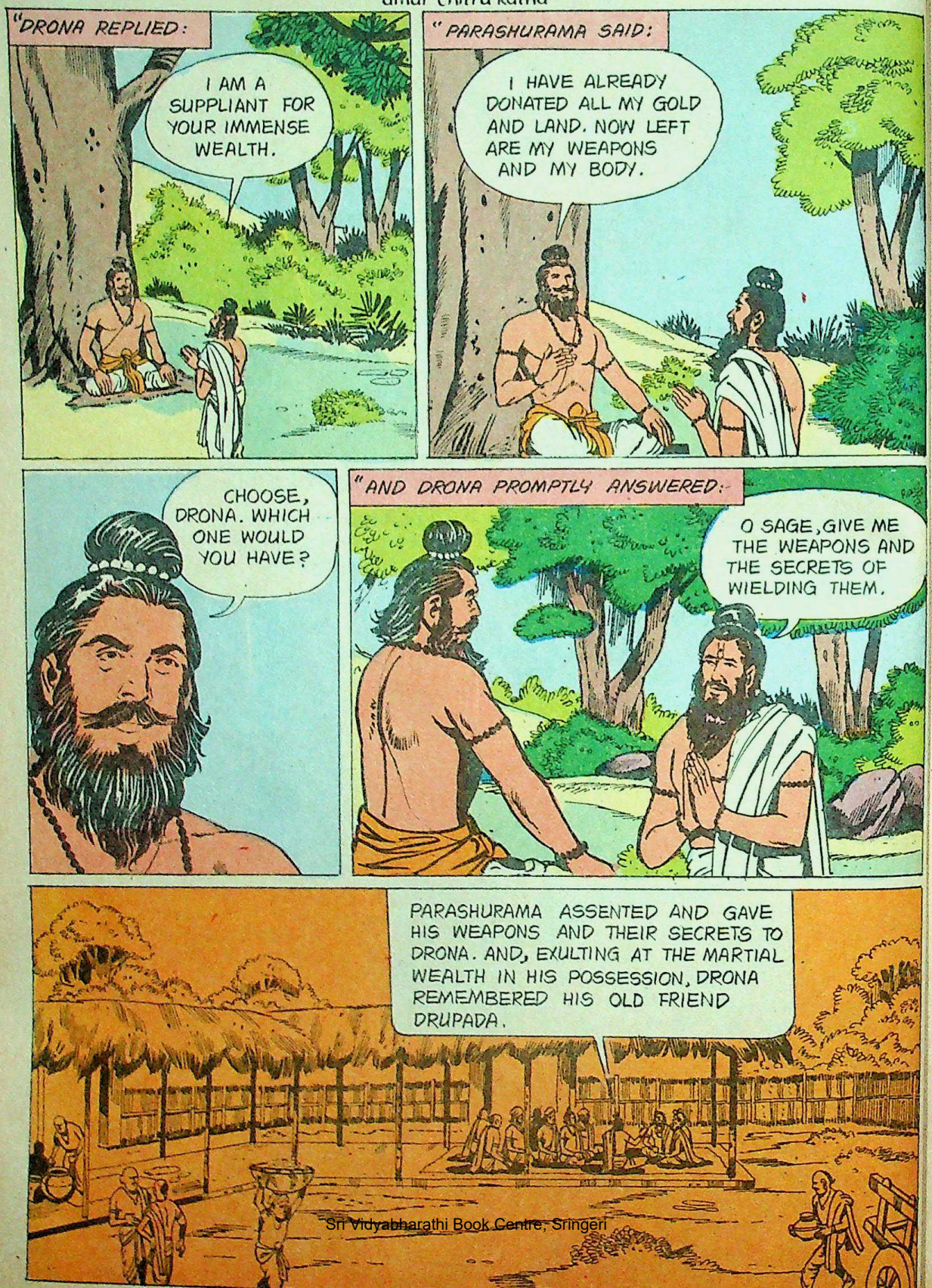

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"AND GOING TO PANCHALA, THE MIGHTY SON OF BHARADWAJA PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE DRUPADA AND SAID:

KNOW ME FOR YOUR FRIEND.

"BUT THE CHIEF OF THE PANCHALAS, INTOXICATED BY WEALTH AND POWER, ONLY SCOWLED AND SAID:

O BRAHMANA, YOUR INTELLIGENCE SEEMS CRUDE AND STUNTED. HOW ELSE COULD YOU PRESUME TO CLAIM ME AS YOUR FRIEND!

YOU ARE DIM-WITTED NOT TO KNOW THAT GREAT KINGS CAN NEVER BE FRIENDS WITH LUCKLESS, INDIGENT MEN LIKE YOU.

IT IS TRUE THAT LONG AGO WE WERE COMRADES WHEN WE WERE EQUAL IN CIRCUMSTANCES.

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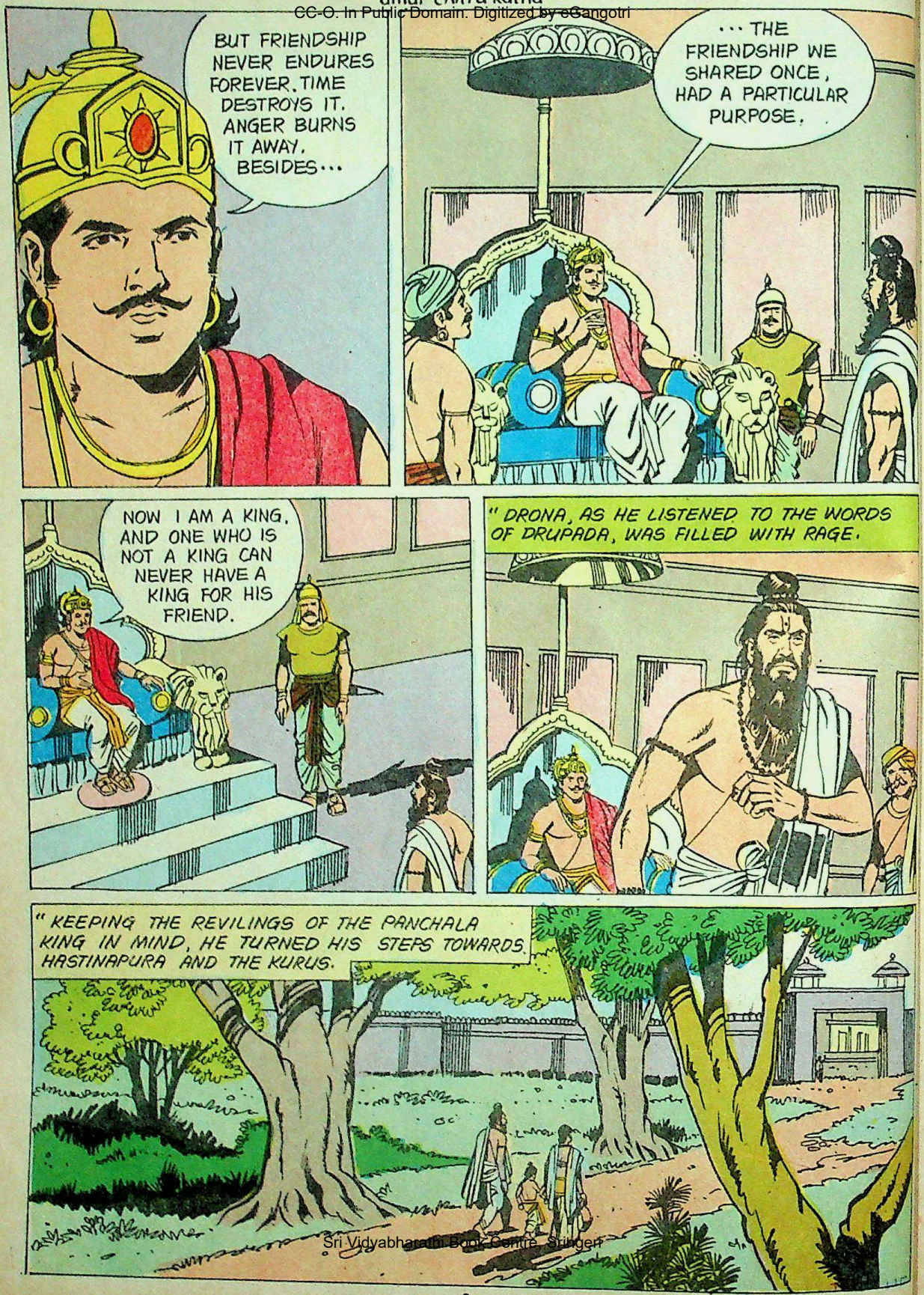

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"AT HASTINAPURA, DRONA WITH KARNA AND ASHWATTHAMA, LIVED UNKNOWN AND UNANNOUNCED FOR MANY YEARS IN THE HOUSE OF KRIPA, HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW.

"AND THEN, ONE DAY, THE PRINCES OF HASTINAPURA CAME OUT OF THE CITY TO PLAY VITA-DANDA.

"WHILE THEY WERE PLAYING, THE VITA FELL INTO A DEEP DRY WELL.

"THEY WERE UNABLE TO RETRIEVE IT AND LOOKED ABOUT, SHAMEFACED AND HELPLESS, WHEN THEY SPOTTED A BRAHMANA.

"THEY IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDED HIM AND THE BRAHMANA, WHO WAS NONE OTHER THAN DRONA, SAID:

THE DESCENDANTS OF BHARATA AT A LOSS TO RECOVER THEIR VITA! FIE ON YOUR KSHATRIYA VALOUR, AND FIE ON YOUR ARCHERY!

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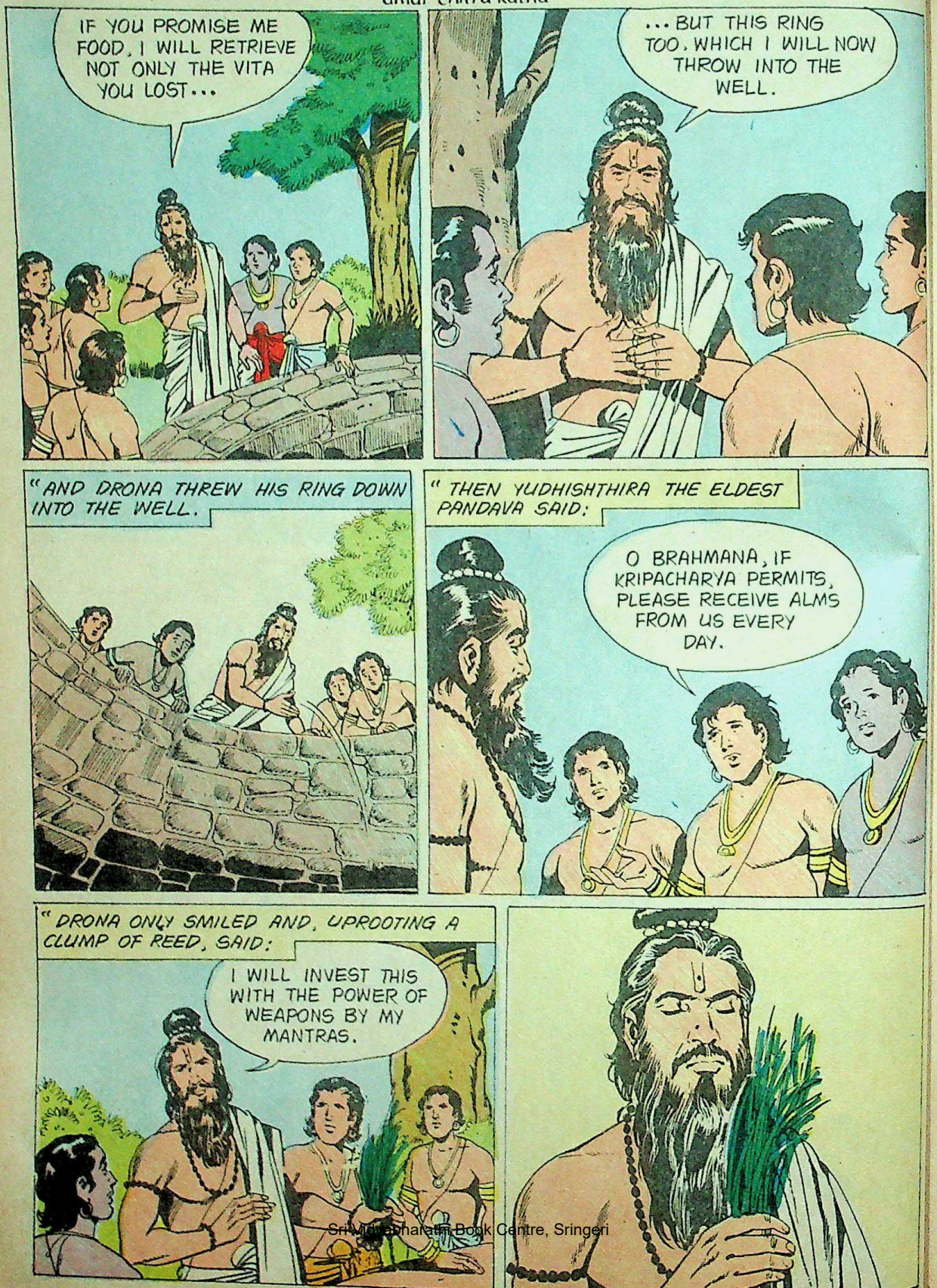

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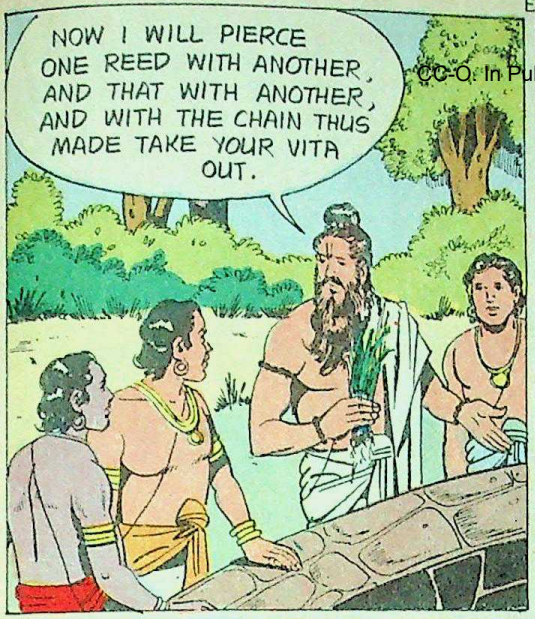

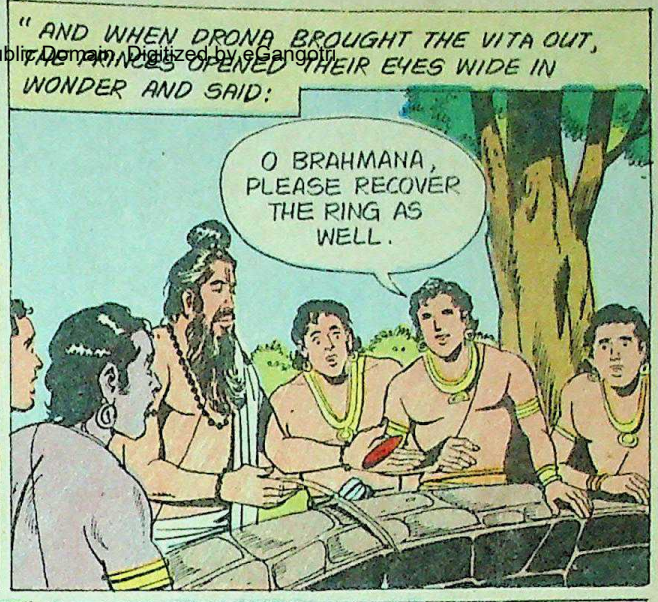

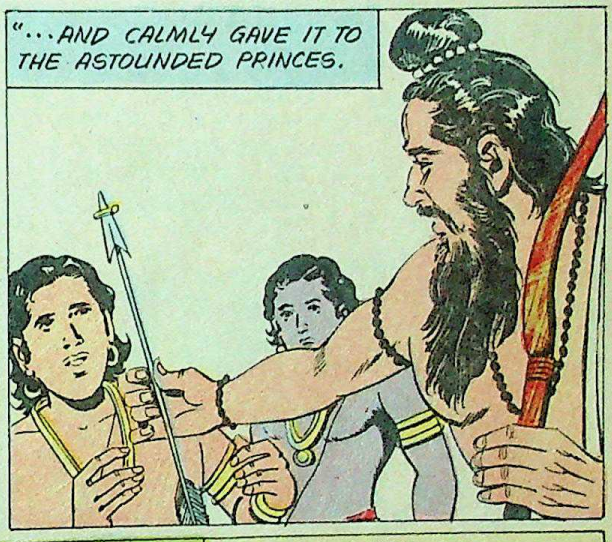

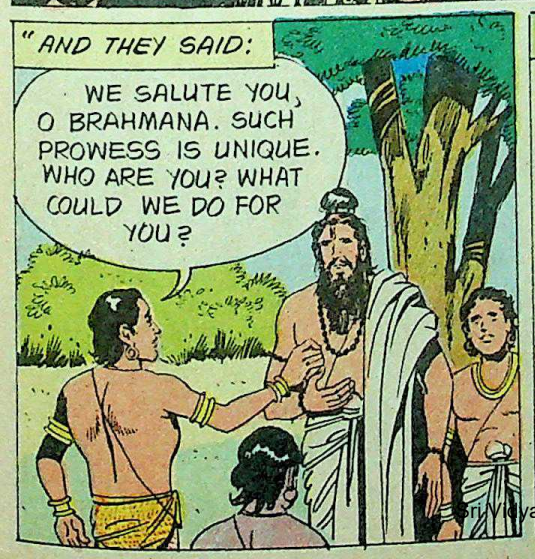

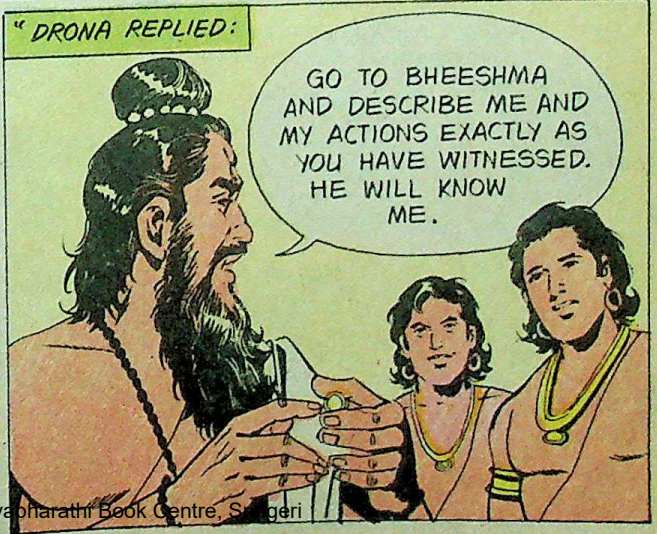

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WHEN BHEESHMA HEARD THE PRINCES' DESCRIPTION, HE KNEW THE BRAHMANA TO BE DRONA. DECIDING THAT HE WOULD BE THE BEST GURU FOR THE PRINCES, BHEESHMA WENT IN PERSON TO WELCOME HIM, AND LED HIM TO THE PALACE.

THEN THE DISCERNING BHEESHMA ASKED HIM THE REASON FOR HIS BEING THERE.

"AND DRONA REPLIED:

O BHEESHMA, LONG AGO I HAD GONE TO RISHI AGNIVESHA TO BE INSTRUCTED IN THE SCIENCE OF WEAPONS.

DRUPADA, THE PANCHALA PRINCE, MY COMPANION IN STUDIES RIGHT FROM CHILDHOOD, WAS ALSO THERE.

"AND THERE HE WOULD OFTEN PLEASE ME BY SAYING:

O DRONA, WHEN I SUCCEED MY FATHER TO THE THRONE OF PANCHALA, MY WEALTH SHALL BE YOURS AS WELL. THIS IS A SOLEMN PROMISE.

"MANY YEARS LATER, ASHWATTHAMA, MY SON, ONE DAY CRIED FOR MILK. HE HAD SEEN THE RICH CHILDREN DRINKING IT.

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"I WAS BESIDE MYSELF, O BHEESHMA. SO I TOOK MY WIFE AND WENT FULL OF HOPE TO THE KING OF THE PANCHALAS.

"REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDSHIP AND HIS SWEETLY-SPOKEN PROMISES, I WENT TO HIM WITH THE CONFIDENCE OF A FRIEND.

"BUT DRUPADA CAST ME OFF WITH A SCORNFUL LAUGH AS IF I WERE A LOWLY BEGGAR.

I WALKED OUT AND HAVE NOW COME TO THE KURUS TO OBTAIN VIRTUOUS DISCIPLES. I AWAIT YOUR COMMAND.

"AND BHEESHMA SAID TO HIM:

LET YOUR BOW BE USED TO INITIATE THE KURU PRINCES IN THE MARVELS OF ARCHERY.

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"DRONA JOYFULLY ACCEPTED THE PRINCES AND THEN SAID TO THEM:

I HAVE A PARTICULAR AIM. PROMISE ME THAT YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH IT WHEN I TRANSFORM YOU INTO EXPERT WARRIORS.

"WHILE THE OTHER KURU PRINCES REMAINED SILENT, ARJUNA PROMISED TO ACCOMPLISH IT, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT IT WAS. AND DRONA CLASPED HIM TO HIS BOSOM AND SHED TEARS OF JOY.

THEN THE VALOROUS DRONA IMPARTED HIS KNOWLEDGE OF WEAPONS, BOTH WORLDLY AND OCCULT, TO THE PANDAVAS. AND ALONG WITH THE PRINCES OF THE NEIGHBOURING KINGDOMS, KARNA THE FOSTER-SON OF THE CHARIOTEER ALSO CAME TO HIM.

AND, O MONARCH, WHEN ALL THE DISCIPLES WERE GIVEN WATERPOTS FOR PROCURING DRINKING WATER, ASHWATTHAMA WAS GIVEN A POT WITH A WIDER MOUTH, TO ENABLE HIM TO FILL IT FAST AND RETURN EARLY. AND IN THAT PERIOD DRONA WOULD IMPART SPECIAL SKILLS TO HIS SON.

ARJUNA KNEW THIS. SO, TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE SON OF HIS GURU, HE WOULD INVOKE THE VARUNA MISSILE TO FILL HIS POT, AND WOULD RETURN AT THE SAME TIME AS ASHWATTHAMA.

"AND BEHOLDING THIS STEADFAST DEVOTION OF ARJUNA TO ARCHERY, DRONA SUMMONED THE COOK AND TOLD HIM:

DON'T EVER GIVE ARJUNA HIS FOOD IN THE DARK. AND DON'T TELL HIM THAT I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS.

Sri Vidyabharati Book Centre, Solapur

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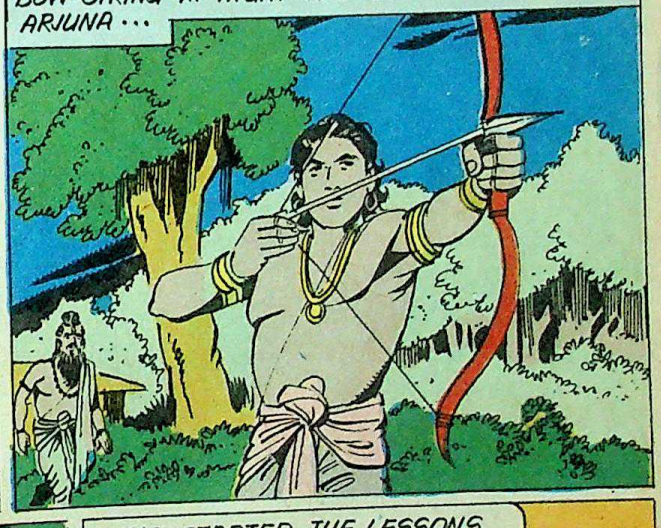
"A FEW DAYS LATER, IT SO HAPPENED THAT WHILE ARJUNA WAS AT HIS DINNER, A WIND AROSE AND PUT OUT THE LAMP.

"... BUT ARJUNA CONTINUED TO EAT, HIS HAND REACHING HIS MOUTH BY FORCE OF HABIT.

" AND REALIZING SUDDENLY THE POTENTIAL OF HABITS...

"... ARJUNA STARTED PRACTISING WITH HIS BOW IN THE DARK. DRONA HEARD THE TWANG OF THE BOW-STRING AT NIGHT AND GOING UP TO ARJUNA...

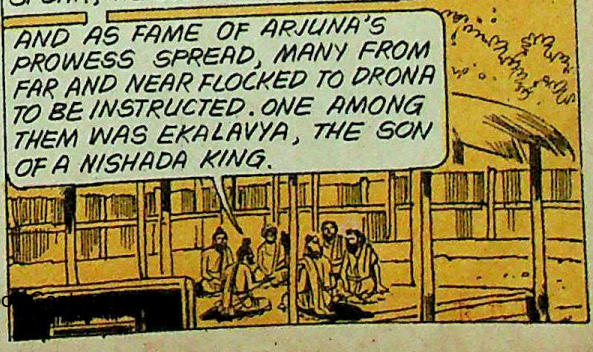


"... CLASPED HIM IN AFFECTION AND SAID:

MARK MY WORDS, I SHALL MAKE YOU UNEQUALLED AMONG THOSE WHO WIELD THE BOW.

THUS STARTED THE LESSONS FOR ARJUNA, IN COMBATS AND FIGHTS ON THE GROUND OR ASTRIDE ANIMALS OR RIDING A CHARIOT, WITH WEAPONS AS DIVERSE AS THE MACE, THE SPEAR, THE SWORD AND THE DART.

AND AS FAME OF ARJUNA'S PROWESS SPREAD, MANY FROM FAR AND NEAR FLOCKED TO DRONA TO BE INSTRUCTED. ONE AMONG THEM WAS EKALAVYA, THE SON OF A NISHADA KING.



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amar chitra katha
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DRONA, HOWEVER, IN DEFERENCE TO THE STATUS OF THE KURU PRINCES AND AWARE OF THE RULES OF RIGHT CONDUCT, DID NOT ACCEPT HIM AS HIS PUPIL.

BUT EKALAVYA PAID HOMAGE TO DRONA BY TOUCHING THE GURU'S FEET WITH HIS HEAD...

"...AND THEN WENDED HIS WAY INTO THE FOREST. THERE HE MADE A CLAY IMAGE OF DRONA...

"...WORSHIPPED IT AS IF IT WERE HIS GURU...

"...AND PRACTISED ARCHERY BEFORE IT WITH UNSWERVING DILIGENCE AND INTENSE DEVOTION.

AND BEFORE LONG, BECAUSE OF HIS EXCEPTIONAL REVERENCE FOR HIS GURU AND HIS DEVOTION TO HIS GOAL, HE EXCELLED IN ALL THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ARCHERY.

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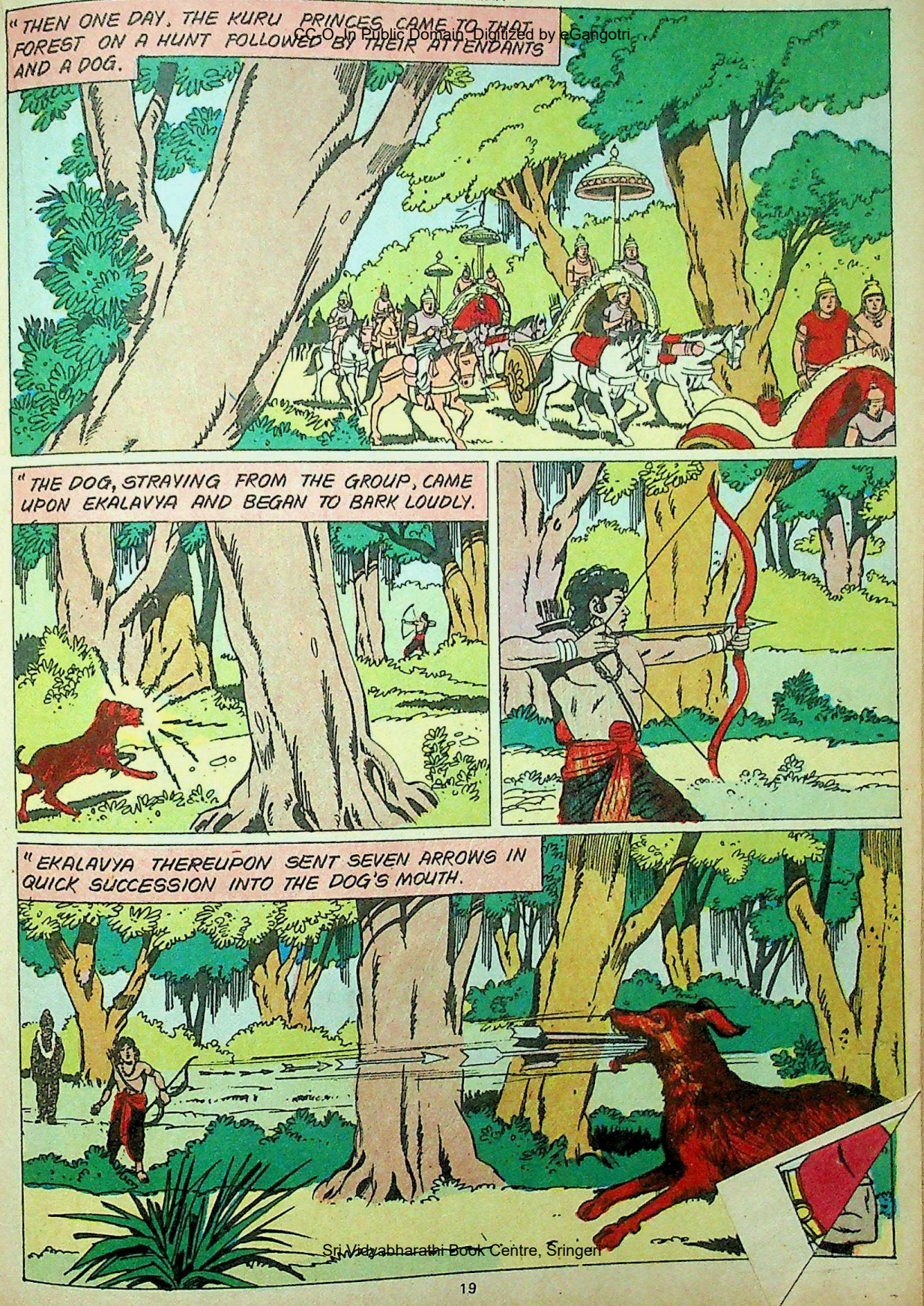

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"THE GAPING DOG WENT RUNNING TOWARDS THE PANDAVAS. FILLED WITH WONDER...

...THOSE PRESENT SCANNED THE FOREST FOR THE ONE WHO POSSESSED SUCH SKILL.

"AND THEY SOON FOUND THE WOODSMAN AT HIS CEASELESS PRACTICE.

"THEY DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE MAN OF UNKEMPT LOOKS AND ASKED HIM:

WHO ARE YOU?

HE REPLIED:

O VALIANT MEN, I AM THE SON OF HIRANYADHANUSH, KING OF THE NISHADAS. I AM ALSO A PUPIL OF DRONA, PERFECTING THE ART OF ARCHERY.

THE PANDAVAS LEARNT ALL ABOUT HIM AND, RETURNING HOME, NARRATED TO DRONA THE UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS IN THE FOREST.

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"ARJUNA PONDERED FOR LONG OVER EKALAVYA'S SKILL AND THEN, IN A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH HIS WELL-LOVED GURU, SAID:

CLASPING ME TO YOUR BOSOM, YOU HAD PREDICTED THAT YOU WOULD MAKE ME THE FOREMOST OF YOUR DISCIPLES.

HOW IS IT THEN THAT ANOTHER PUPIL OF YOURS, THIS SON OF THE NISHADA KING, IS SUPERIOR TO ME?

"DRONA REFLECTED FOR SOME TIME AND, IN A RESOLUTE MOVE, WENT TO THE NISHADA PRINCE TAKING ARJUNA WITH HIM. AND THERE HE SAW EKALAVYA OF UNKEMPT APPEARANCE AND DETERMINED WILL.

"AS SOON AS EKALAVYA SAW HIS GURU, HE WENT FORWARD AND PROSTRATED HIMSELF AT HIS FEET.

"THEN JOINING HIS HANDS IN REVERENCE HE STOOD BEFORE HIM. AND DRONA SAID:

O BRAVE ONE, IF YOU REALLY ARE MY PUPIL, GIVE ME MY GURU-DAKSHINA.

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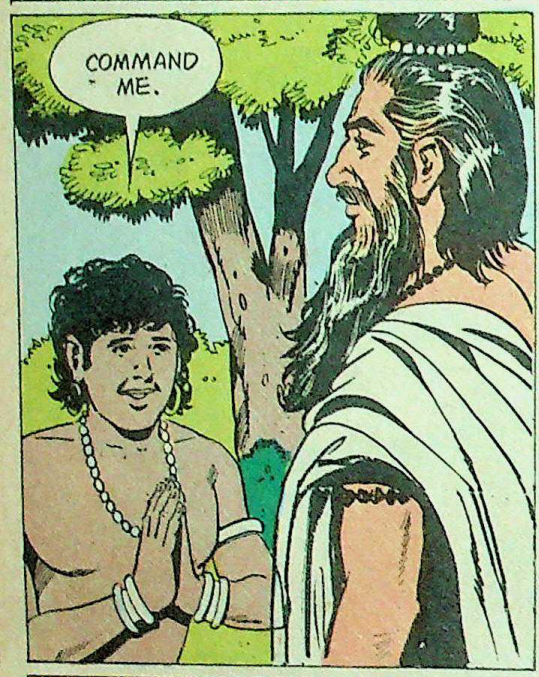

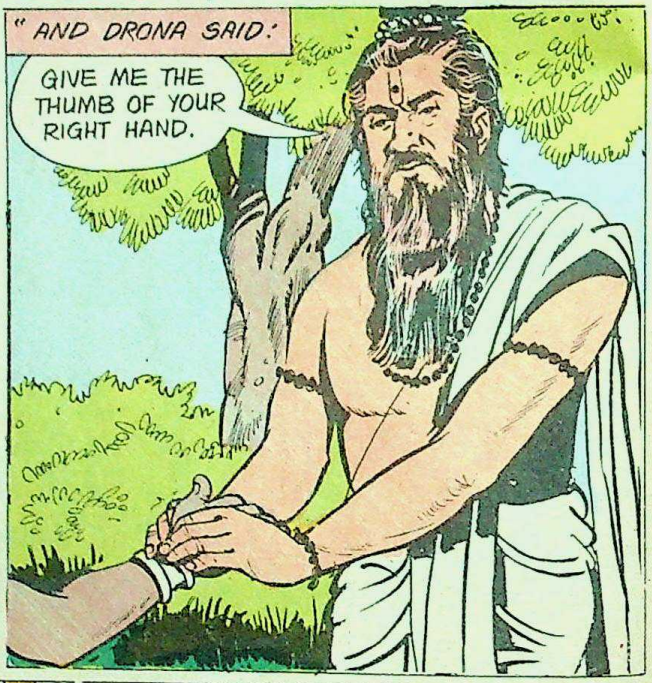

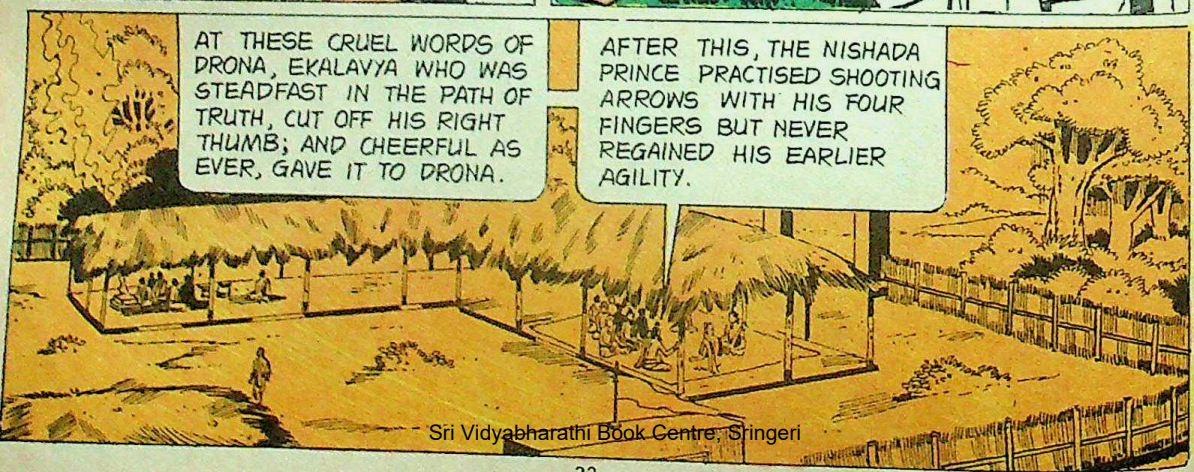

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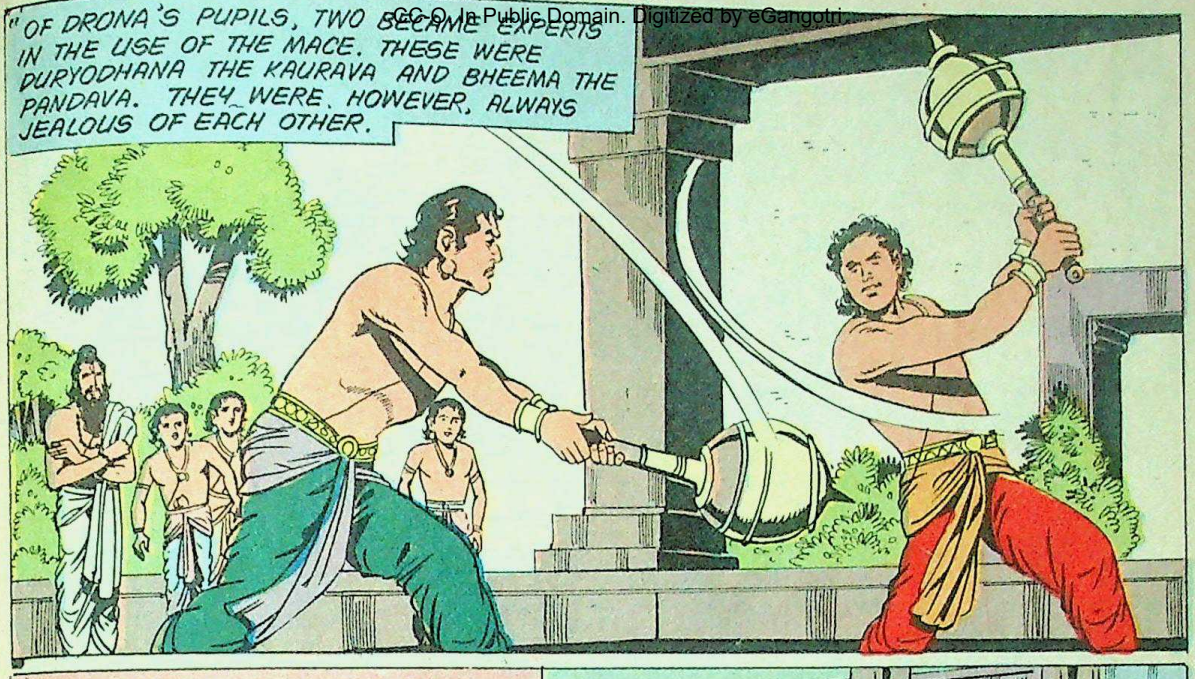

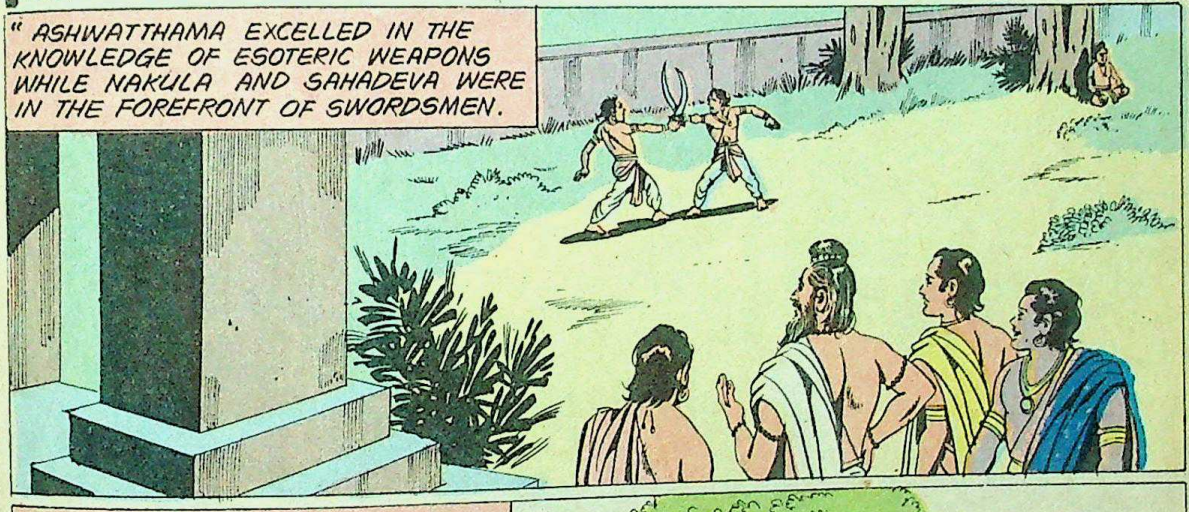

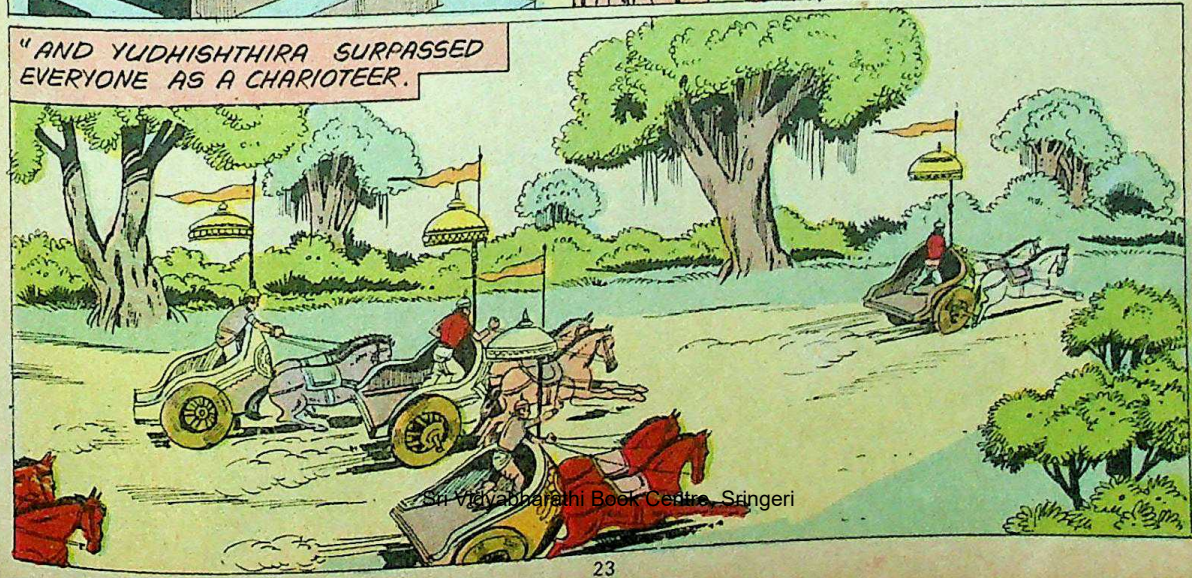

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BUT ARJUNA ALONE WAS VERSATILE IN HIS SKILLS. IN INTELLIGENCE, IN CONCENTRATION, IN STRENGTH, IN PRESENCE OF MIND AND IN DEVOTION TO HIS GURU, HE WAS ABOVE ALL OTHERS. THUS THOUGH THE INSTRUCTION WAS THE SAME FOR ALL, ARJUNA LEFT ALL OTHERS BEHIND, AND BECAME JUSTLY FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE LAND.

"WHEN THE PRINCES HAD LEARNT ALL THAT WAS TO BE TAUGHT, DRONA, WISHING TO TEST THEIR PROWESS, HAD A WOODEN BIRD PLACED AS A TARGET ON THE TOP OF THE TREE.

"THEN, SUMMONING ALL THE PRINCES TO THE SPOT, HE SAID:

TAKE UP YOUR BOWS AND ARROWS AT ONCE AND BE READY TO SEVER THE HEAD OF THAT BIRD.

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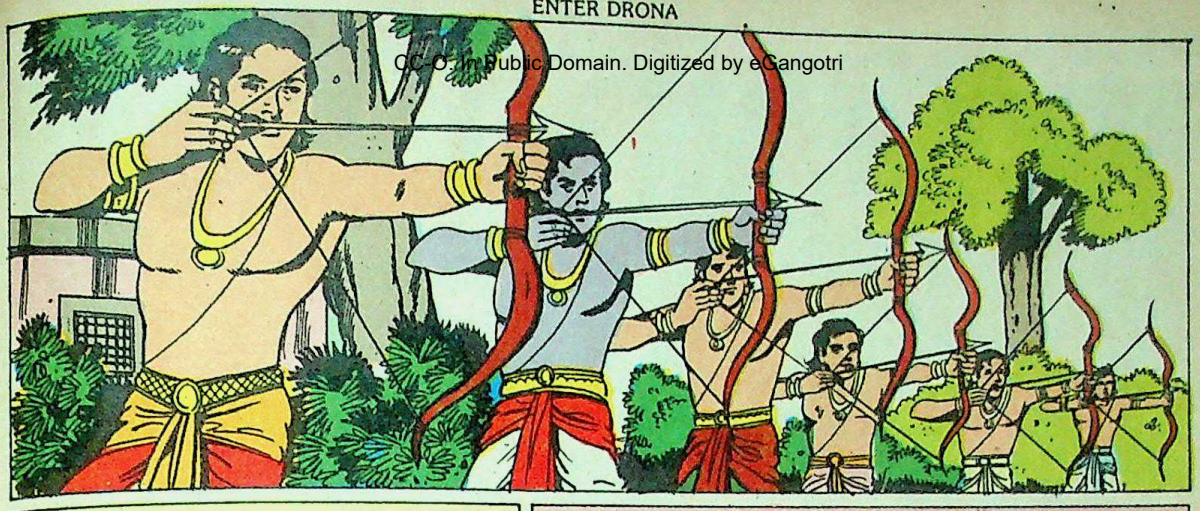

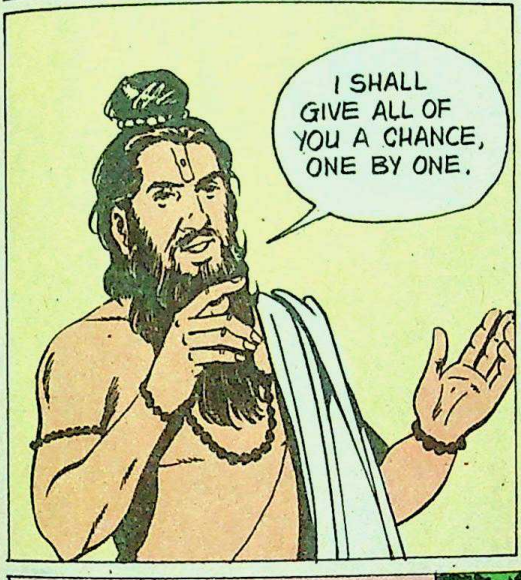

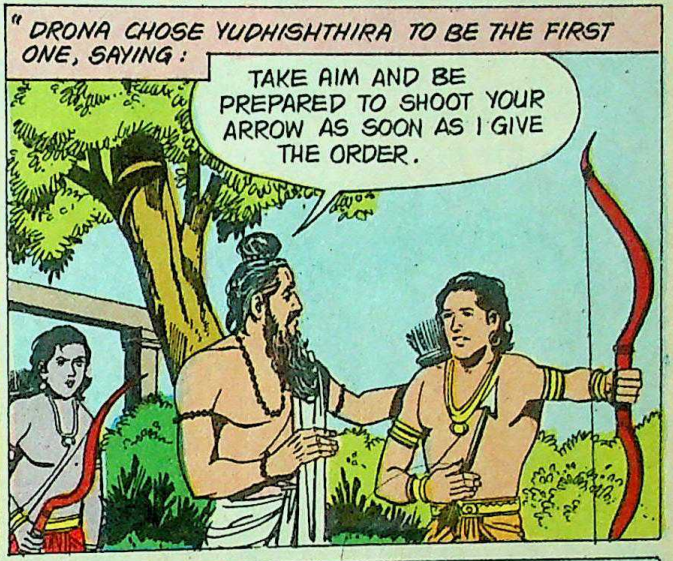

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"THEN DRONA SAID TO ARJUNA WITH A SMILE:

THAT IS THE TARGET AND YOU MUST HIT IT. TAKE YOUR STANCE AND LET FLY THE ARROW WHEN I GIVE THE ORDER.

"ARJUNA TOOK HIS STANCE. AND DRONA ASKED HIM:

DO YOU SEE THE BIRD AND THE TREE AND ME?

"ARJUNA REPLIED:

I SEE ONLY THE BIRD. AND NEITHER THE TREE NOR YOU.

"PLEASED WITH HIS ANSWER, DRONA SAID AGAIN:

IF YOU SEE THE BIRD, THEN DESCRIBE IT TO ME.

"ARJUNA SAID:

I SEE ONLY THE HEAD OF THE BIRD BUT NOT ITS BODY.*

*शिरः पश्यामि भासस्य न गात्रमिति सोऽब्रवीत्"

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"THIS GLADDENED THE HEART OF DRONA AND HE GAVE THE ORDER:

SHOOT!

"THE ARROW FLEW FROM ARJUNA'S BOW...

"...HIT THE HEAD OF THE WOODEN BIRD... AND BROUGHT IT DOWN.

"AND DRONA HELD ARJUNA CLOSE AND THOUGHT THAT DRUPADA WAS AS GOOD AS VANQUISHED.

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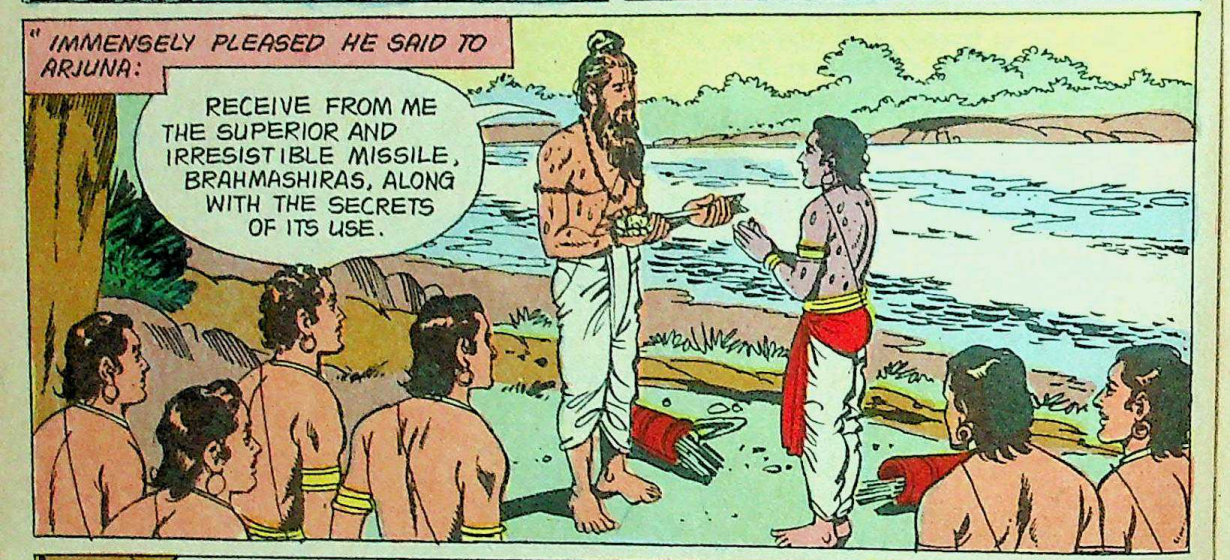

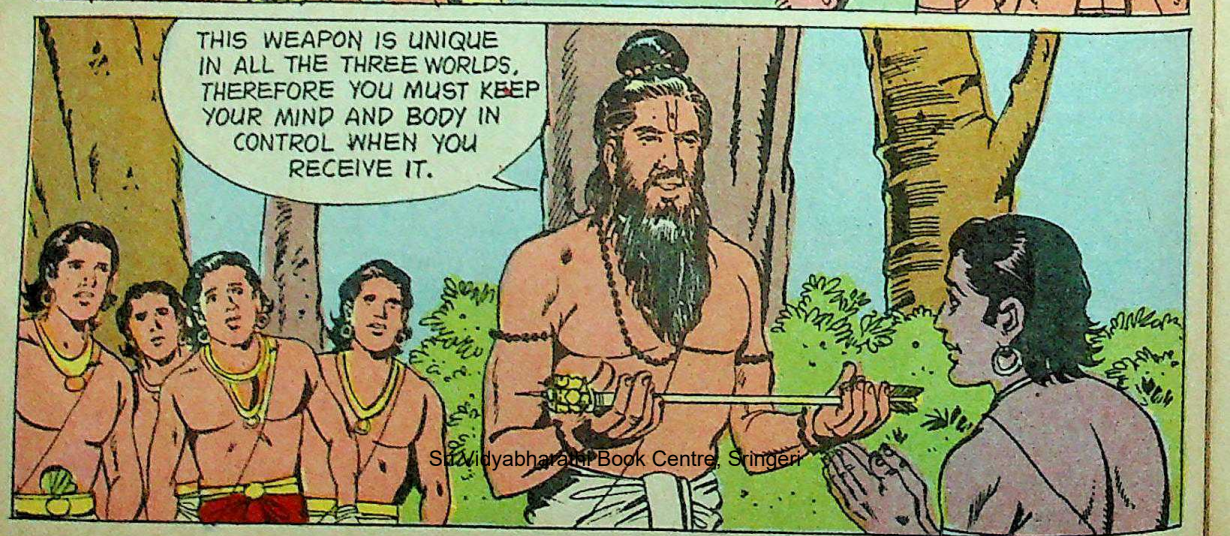

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ENTER DRONA

THIS IS NOT TO BE USED AGAINST ANY HUMAN BEING. IF USED ON COMMON FOES IT COULD SET AFIRE THE WHOLE UNIVERSE.

YOU MAY USE IT ONLY TO KILL A FOE WHO IS NOT OF THE HUMAN KIND.

"ARJUNA RECEIVED THE GREAT WEAPON IN ALL HUMILITY AND VOWED THAT HE WOULD ABIDE BY THE PRECEPTS OF THE GURU. DRONA ONCE AGAIN SAID TO HIM:

IN THIS WORLD THERE WILL BE NO ONE EQUAL TO YOU AS AN ARCHER. YOU SHALL BE INVINCIBLE AND FAMOUS.

SO DID DRONA ACQUIRE, SELECT, AND TRAIN DISCIPLES WHO WOULD ASSIST HIM IN AVENGING THE INSULT OF DRUPADA, HIS CHILD-HOOD FRIEND.

THUS ENDS THE FIFTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S IMMORTAL ITIHASA, **THE MAHABHARATA.**

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PRONUNCIATION GUIDE AND GLOSSARY
Mahabharata – 5

Pg **DRONA**: द्रोण:

1. **HASTINAPURA**: हस्तिनापुरं
Capital of the KURUs on the banks of river GANGA.
VEDA VYASA: वेदव्यास :
Literally the man who analysed and compiled the Vedas — RIK, YAJUS, SAMA and ATHARVA.
BHARATAs: भारता :
The descendants of king BHARATA who was the son of DUSHYANTA and SHAKUNTALA.
VAISHAMPAYANA: वैशम्पायन :
JANAMEJAYA: जनमेजय :
SARPA SATRA: सर्पसत्र
Twelve-year-long snake sacrifice.
KUNTI: कुन्ती
The first wife of PANDU and the mother of the first three PANDAVAs.
PANDAVAs: पांडवा :
The five sons of PANDU by his two wives KUNTI and MADRI.
KAURAVAs: कौरवा :
Literally the descendants of king KURU but by usage the word has acquired the special meaning of the sons of DHRITARASHTRA as distinguished from the sons of PANDU.
DURYODHANA: दुर्योधन :
The first of the hundred sons of DHRITARASHTRA and GANDHARI.
DHRITARASHTRA: धृतराष्ट्र :
Son of VEDA VYASA and AMBIKA — Husband of GANDHARI — congenitally blind.
KRIPACHARYA: कृपाचार्य :

2 **KRIPI**: कृपी
SHARADWAN: शरद्वान्
He is believed to have been born fully equipped with arrows which explains his preference of martial skills to Vedic skills.
GAUTAMA: गौतम :
SHANTANU: शान्तनु :
Son of PRATEEPA who ruled over the KURU empire — father of BHEESHMA.

3. **YADAVAs**: यादवा :
The descendants of YADU.
KURUs: कौरवा :
The descendants of the great king KURU.
BHARADWAJA: भरद्वाज :
AGNIVESHA: अग्निवेश :

4 **PRISHATA**: पृषत:
PANCHALA: पञ्चालं
An ancient state.
DRUPADA: द्रुपद :
UCHCHAISHRAVAS: उच्चै:श्रवस्
A celestial horse.
ASHWATTHAMA: अश्वत्थामा

5 **PARASHURAMA**: परशुराम :
Sixth incarnation of VISHNU — famous for his valour and esoteric weapons.
JAMADAGNI: जमदग्नि
A RISHI.
BRAHMANAs: ब्राह्मणा :
Class of people traditionally engaged in learning and scholastics.
MAHENDRA: महेन्द्रं
A range of mountains between the rivers now known as MAHANADI and GODAVARI.

9 **VITI-DANDA**: वीटि-दण्ड
A game played with a chiselled peg (VITI) and a short staff (DANDA).
KSHATRIYAs: क्षत्रिया :
Class of people traditionally engaged in the military arts.

10 **YUDHISHTHIRA**: युधिष्ठिर :

16 **ARJUNA**: अर्जुन :
The third Pandava.
KARNA: कर्ण :
The son of unwed KUNTI by SURYA the Sun-God — Abandoned by KUNTI, he was found and reared by the charioteer ADHIRATHA.
VARUNA: वरुण :
The presiding deity of water.

17 **EKALAVYA**: एकलव्य :
NISHADAs: निषादा :
A group of tribals, low in social hierarchy.

20 **HIRANYADHANUS**: हिरण्यधनुस्

21 **GURU DAKSHINA**: गुरुदक्षिणा
The fee to be given by a disciple to his Guru as consideration for instruction imparted.

23 **BHEEMA**: भीम :
The second PANDAVA.
NAKULA: नकुल :
SAHADEVA: सहदेव :
The twin sons of PANDU and MADRI. The fourth and the fifth PANDAVAs.

29 **GANGA**: गंगा

30 **BRAHMASHIRAS**: ब्रह्मशिरस्

31. **ITIHASA**: इतिहास :
An epic. Literally "And so indeed it was"

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Mahabharata-6
ENTER KARNA

VEDA VYASA'S EPIC ON THE BHARATA RACE WAS FIRST RECITED IN PUBLIC, BY HIS DISCIPLE VAISHAMPAYANA, AT THE BEHEST OF THE AGELESS SEER VYASA HIMSELF.

THE RECITAL TOOK PLACE IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF KING JANAMEJAYA— GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE GRANDSON OF VYASA— AND THE MANY LEARNED SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA SATRA.

THE FIFTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S MAHABHARATA SPOKE OF HOW DRONA, SCORNED BY DRUPADA THE KING OF PANCHALA, CAME TO HASTINAPURA; OF HOW BHEESHMA APPOINTED HIM GURU OF THE PRINCES; AND OF HOW ARJUNA BY HIS PROWESS IN ARMS BECAME THE GURU'S FAVOURITE, TO THE CHAGRIN OF KARNA.

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FOR PRONUNCIATION AND MEANING OF SANSKRIT WORDS AND PROPER NAMES, PLEASE SEE PAGE 32.

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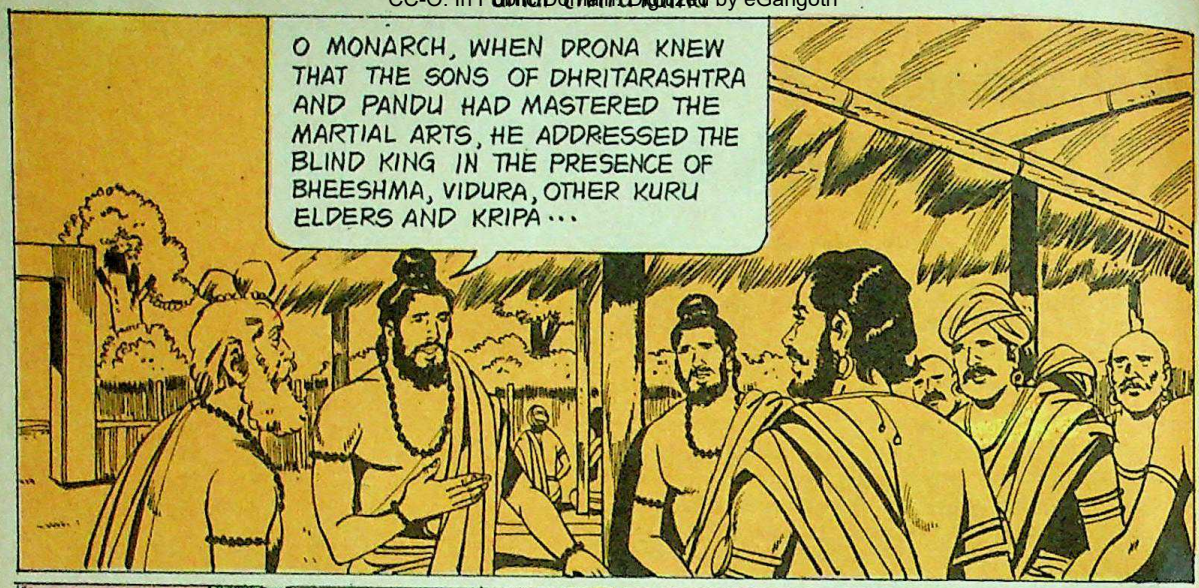

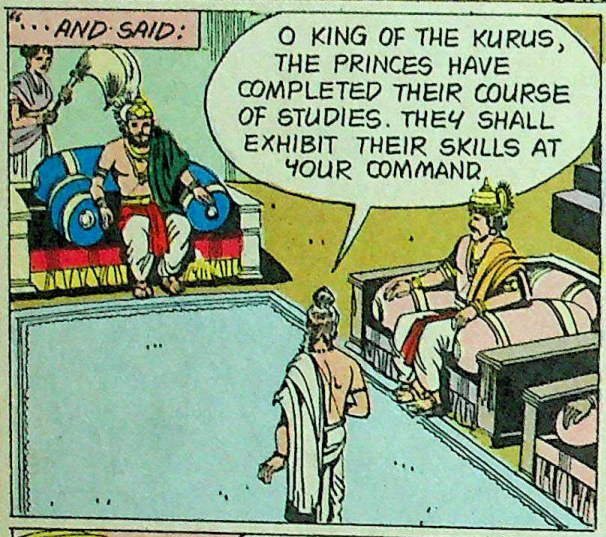

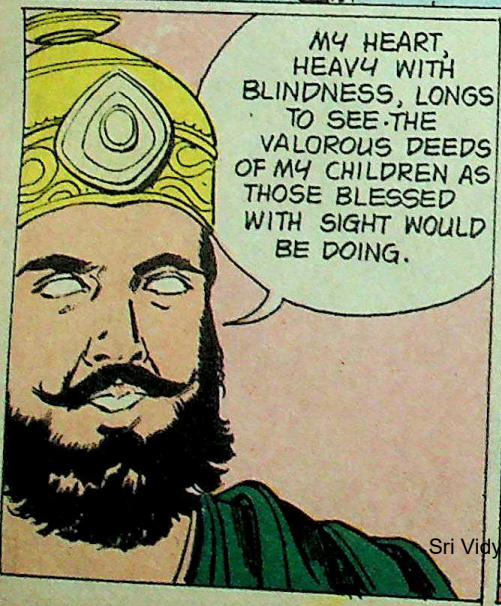

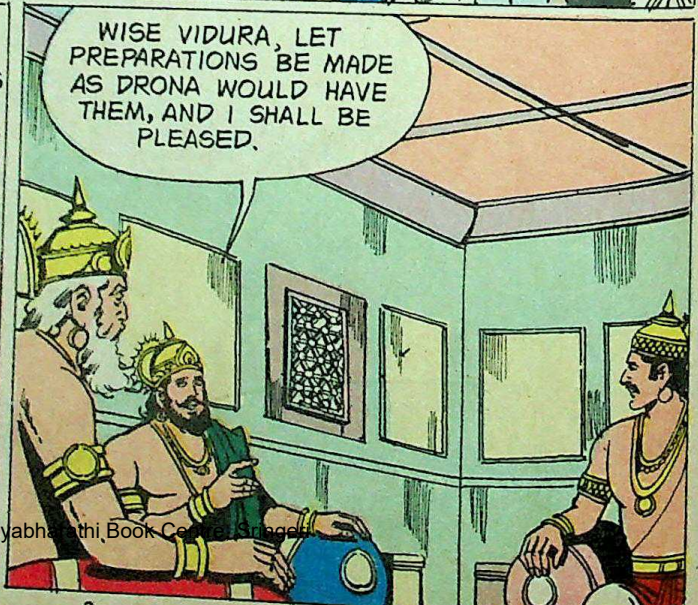

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"DRONA MEASURED OUT A PIECE OF SUITABLE LAND AND HAD IT SANCTIFIED AT AN AUSPICIOUS TIME. THERE THE CRAFTSMEN BUILT PAVILIONS FOR THE ROYALTY; AND WEALTHY CITIZENS HAD TENTS PITCHED FOR THEMSELVES.

"ON THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT, THE KING MADE HIS ENTRY ACCOMPANIED BY BHEEGHMA, KRIPA AND THE RETINUE OF MINISTERS.

"THEN CAME GANDHARI AND KUNTI AND OTHER IMPERIAL WOMEN WITH THEIR RETINUE OF MAIDS.

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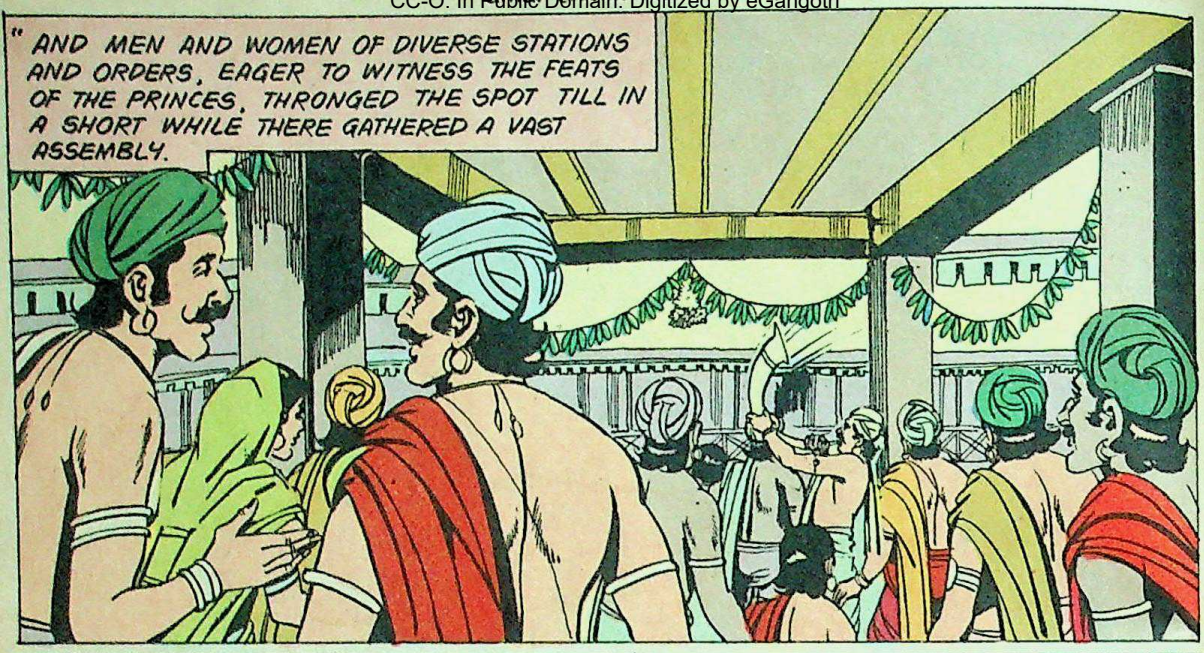

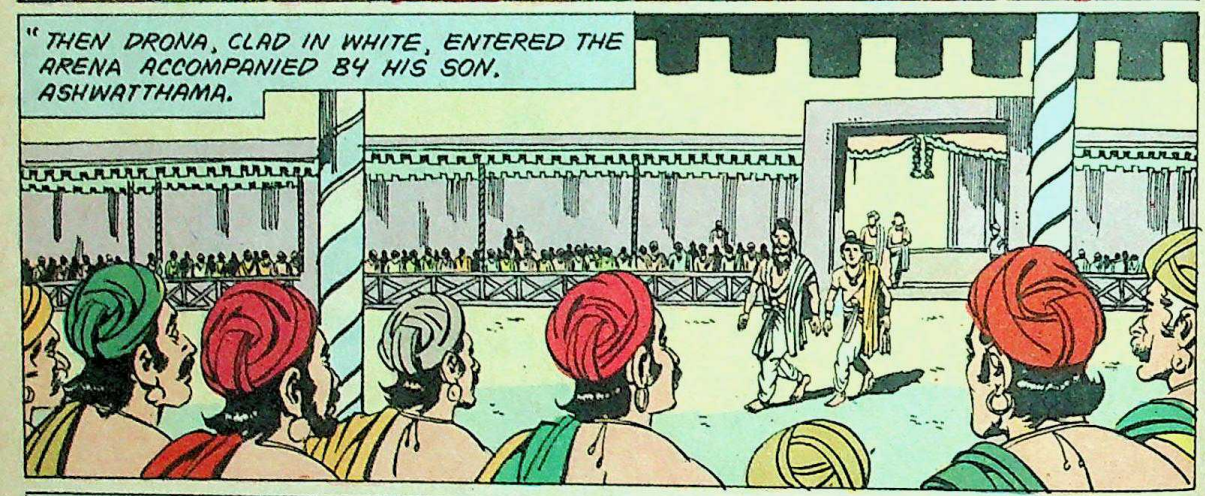

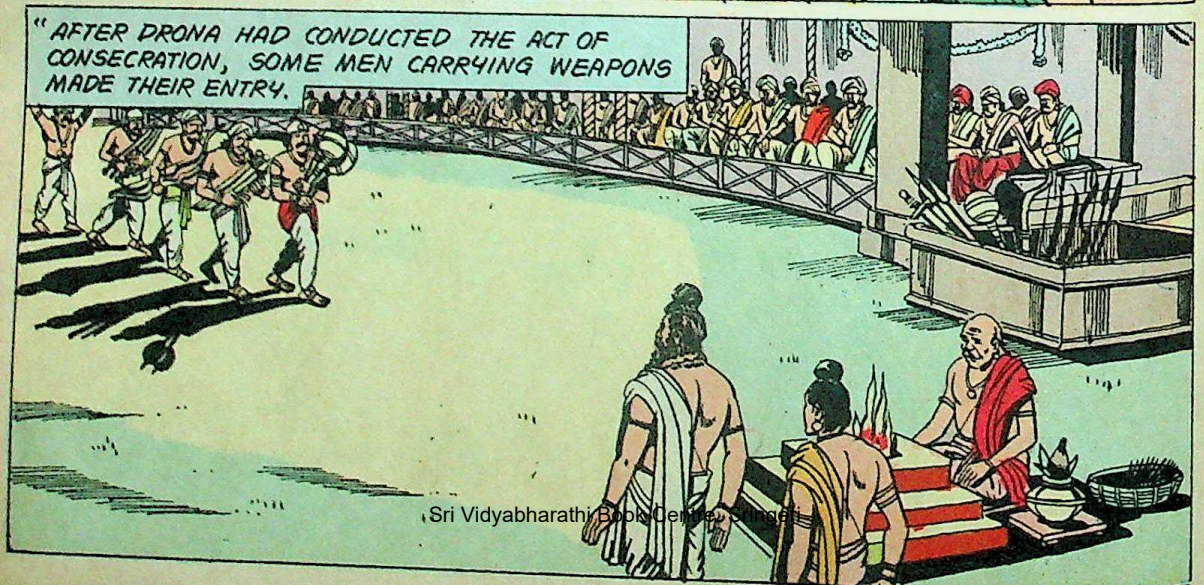

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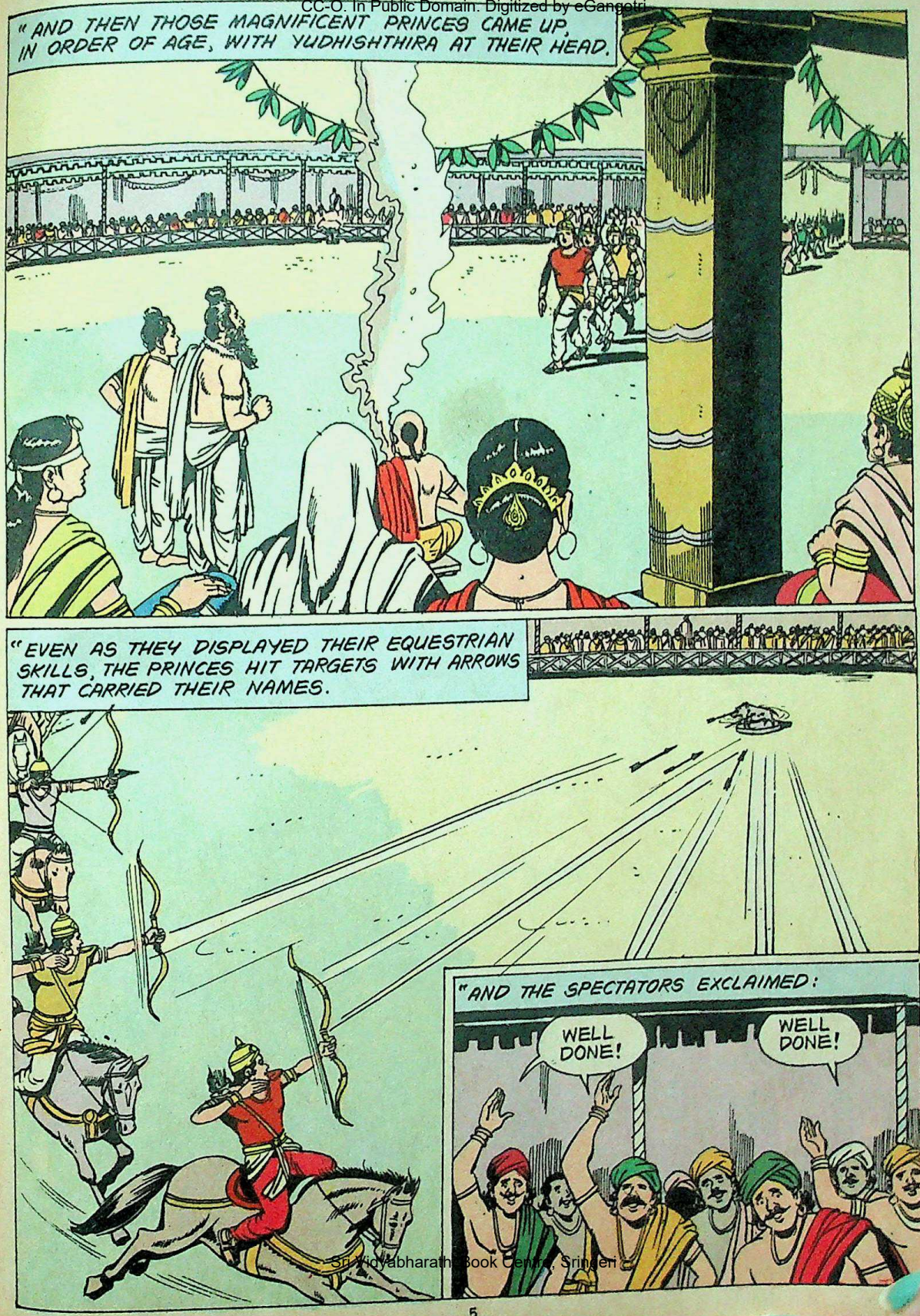

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"PROGRESSIVELY THE PRINCES EXHIBITED THEIR SKILL IN ARCHERY, IN CHARIOT RALLIES, IN FIGHTS ASTRIDE ELEPHANTS AND HORSES, AND IN FREE-HAND COMBATS. LAST OF ALL THEY DISPLAYED THEIR SWORDSMANSHIP.

WITH THE SWORD AND THE BUCKLER, O MONARCH, THEY REVEALED THROUGH WELL-WROUGHT BODIES THEIR FIRM STANCE, STRONG GRIP AND NIMBLE TURNS.

"AND THEN THE CONSTANT RIVALS, BHEEMA AND DURYODHANA, MOVED INTO THE ARENA.

"THEY FOUGHT, MOVING NOW TO THE LEFT, NOW TO THE RIGHT, NOW IN A CIRCLE AND NOW ALL OVER, LIKE TWO ENRAGED ELEPHANTS. AND VIDURA DESCRIBED EACH MOVE TO DHRITARASHTRA AND KUNTI TO GANDHARI.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

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"THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE TWO SPLIT THE CROWD. SOME CHEERED ONE, SOME THE OTHER.

HAIL DURYODHANA!

HAIL BHEEMA!

"AND PERCEIVING THIS, THE CLEVER DRONA SAID TO HIS SON:

STOP THE TWO BRAVE FIGHTERS LEST THE CROWD SHOULD GET INTOXICATED BY PARTISAN SPIRITS.

"ASHWATTHAMA RUSHED INTO THE ARENA AND RESTRAINED THE TWO WARRIORS.

"THEN DRONA CAME INTO THE ARENA AND, ORDERING THE MUSIC TO BE STOPPED, SAID IN A RINGING VOICE:

HERE COMES ARJUNA WHO IS DEARER TO ME THAN MY SON! HE IS THE SON OF INDRA, IS SUPREME IN ALL MARTIAL ARTS AND EQUALS VISHNU IN VALOUR.

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"HAVING INVOKED DIVINE GRACE, ARJUNA, CLAD IN GOLDEN COAT OF MAIL, STOOD LIKE A CLOUD SET ABLAZE BY THE EVENING SUN. THE DELIGHTED CROWD HAILED HIM EXCLAIMING:

THIS IS THE SON OF KUNTI!

THIS IS THE THIRD PANDAVA!

THIS IS THE SON OF MIGHTY INDRA!

HE IS THE REDEEMER OF THE KURUS!

"THESE LOUD EXCLAMATIONS BROUGHT TEARS OF JOY TO KUNTI'S EYES, AND MADE DHRITARASHTRA ENQUIRE OF VIDURA:

WHY THIS GREAT UPROAR?

"VIDURA REPLIED:

ARJUNA, THE SON OF PANDU, HAS ENTERED THE LISTS.

"AND DHRITARASHTRA SAID:

THE THREE FLAMING SONS, SPRUNG FROM THE SACRED FUEL THAT IS KUNTI, BRING ME LUCK, ELATION AND PROTECTION.

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"ONCE THE EXCITEMENT OF THE CROWD HAD SUBSIDED, ARJUNA BEGAN TO DISPLAY HIS RESILIENCE TO HIS GURU.

"WITH THE AGNEYA MISSILE HE STARTED A FIRE...

"...AND BY THE VARUNA MISSILE, A COLUMN OF WATER.

"BY THE VAYAVYA MISSILE HE BROUGHT FORTH A GALE OF WIND, AND BY THE PARJANYA MISSILE, CLOUDS.

"BY THE BHAUMA MISSILE HE ENTERED INTO THE EARTH...

"...AND BY THE PARVATA MISSILE HE SET UP MOUNTAINS.

"THEN WITH THE ANTARDHANA MISSILE HE MADE HIMSELF INVISIBLE.

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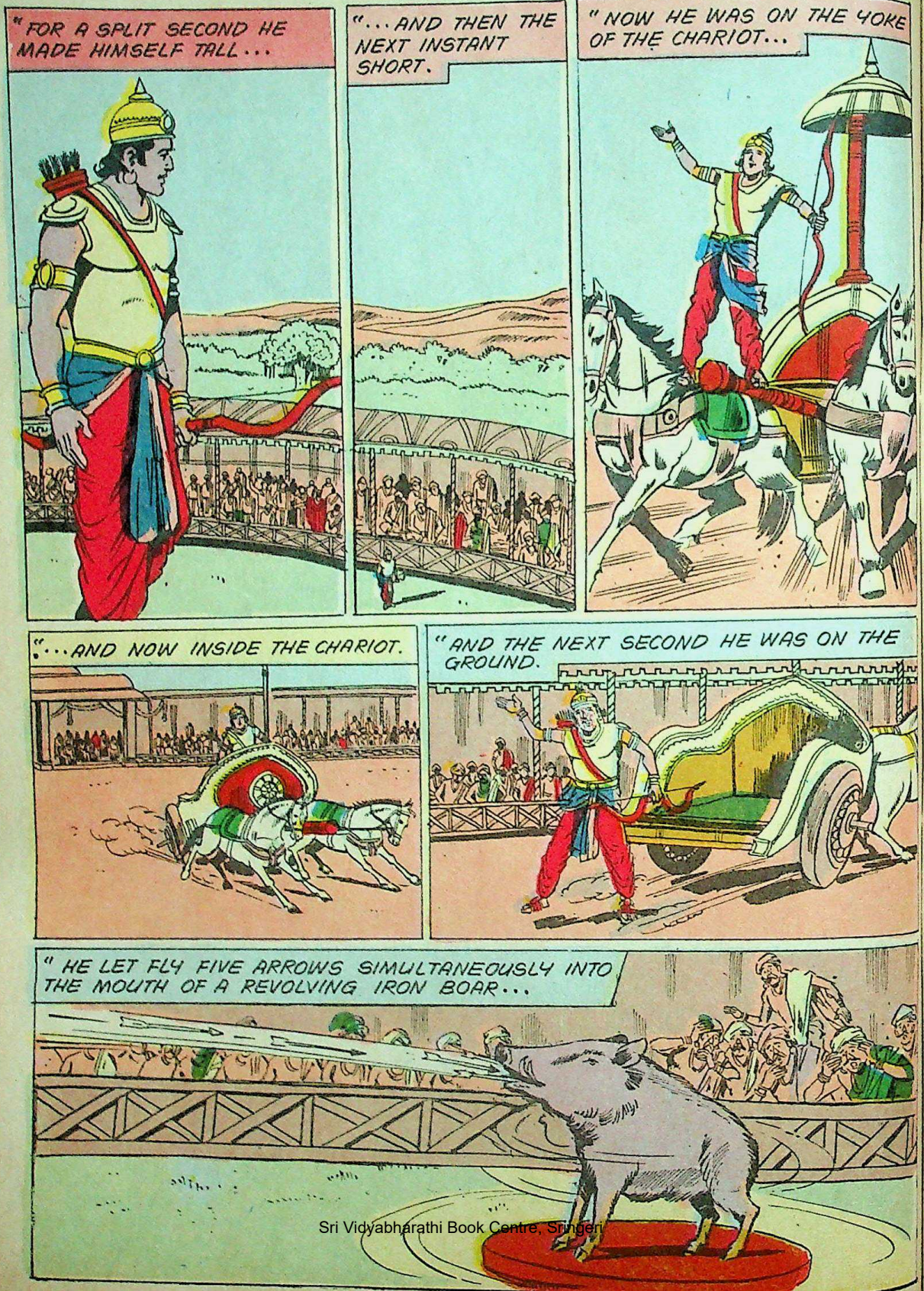

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"...AND FOUND THE MARK FOR TWENTY-ONE OF HIS FLYING ARROWS, IN ONE SHOT, IN THE HOLLOW OF A SWINGING HORN.

"THEN ARJUNA EXHIBITED ALL THE COMPLEX MOVES IN FIGHTS WITH THE MACE AND THE SWORD.

"WHEN THE EVENTS WERE ALMOST OVER, WHEN THE INTEREST HAD WANED AND WHEN THE MUSIC WAS STILLED, THERE CAME FROM THE GATES THE SOUND OF THE SLAPPING OF ARMS, MIGHTY LIKE THE THUNDERBOLT SIGNIFYING IMMENSE STRENGTH, AND AT ONCE A THOUGHT PASSED THROUGH THE CROWD:

ARE THE MOUNTAINS CRACKING OR IS THE EARTH SPLITTING OR IS THE SKY ECHOING THE JOSTLE OF HEAVY CLOUDS?

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"THEN THE SPECTATORS TURNED TOWARDS THE GATE. MEANWHILE THE PANDAVAS HAD TAKEN THEIR STANCE AROUND DRONA; AND THE KAURAVAS AND ASHWATTHAMA AROUND DURYODHANA.

"KARNA THEN STRODE IN, EVEN AS THE WONDER-STRUCK SPECTATORS MADE WAY FOR HIM. THAT HERO, GLORIOUS IN HIS CONGENITAL ARMOUR AND EARRINGS, BOW IN HAND AND SWORD AT HIS WAIST...

"...ENTERED THE ARENA LIKE A MASSIVE MOUNTAIN ON THE MOVE.

O MONARCH, KARNA THE SPLENDROUS ISSUE OF SURYA AND THE SON OF KUNTI STOOD TOWERING IN ALL HIS COUNTLESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS LIKE A GOLDEN PALM-TREE..

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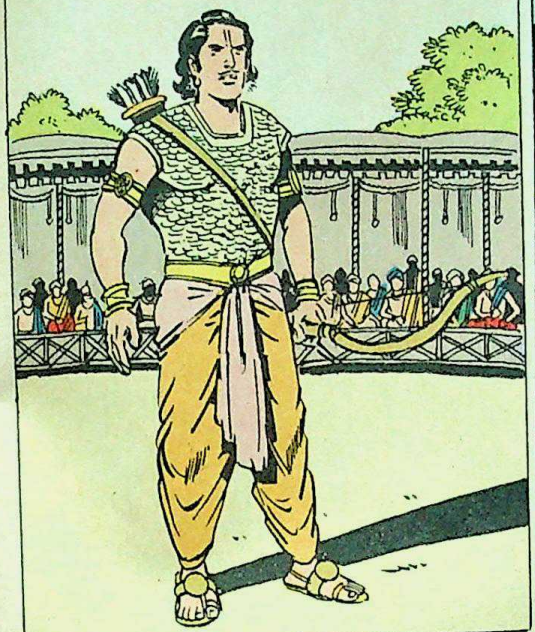
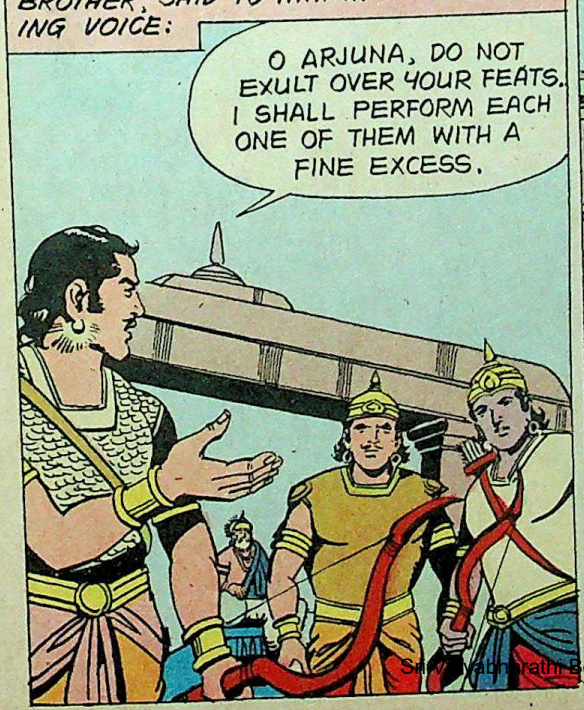
"THE MIGHTY WARRIOR TOOK IN THE WHOLE SCENE WITH HIS EYES...



...AND BOWED, WITH SCANT RESPECT, TO DRONA AND KRIPA WHILE THE VAST ASSEMBLY, RESTLESS IN THEIR CURIOSITY YET STILL WITH ASTONISHMENT, THOUGHT:

"AND THE OFFSPRING OF THE SUN, UNAWARE THAT ARJUNA WAS HIS BROTHER, SAID TO HIM IN A THUNDERING VOICE:



"O MONARCH, NO SOONER HAD KARNA SPOKEN THAN THE SPECTATORS WERE UPON THEIR FEET, PROPELLED BY SOME MACHINE AS IT WERE. DURYODHANA WAS PLEASED AND ARJUNA, EMBARRASSED AND ANGRY.

Sri Vyasathmarathi Book Centre, Singeri

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THEN KARNA, WITH PERMISSION FROM DRONA, DID ALL THAT ARJUNA HAD DONE BEFORE.

"AND, DELIGHTED, DURYODHANA HELD KARNA CLOSE AND SAID TO HIM:

WELCOME, O MIGHTY WARRIOR. IT IS MY GOOD FORTUNE THAT YOU ARE WITH ME. I AM AT YOUR COMMAND AND THE KINGDOM OF THE KURUS YOURS TO ENJOY.

"KARNA REPLIED:

I TAKE YOUR WORDS AS ALREADY FULFILLED. I LONG FOR A BOUT OF COMBAT WITH ARJUNA.

"DURYODHANA SAID:

PARTAKE OF THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE WITH ME. BE GOOD TO YOUR COMPANIONS AND BRING DOWN YOUR FOOT ON YOUR ENEMIES.

"FEELING DISGRACED, ARJUNA SAID TO KARNA WHO STOOD LIKE A ROCK AMONGST THE BROTHERS:

O KARNA, SLAIN BY ME IN COMBAT, YOU SHALL GAIN THE REALM RESERVED FOR TRESPASSERS AND FOR THE BRAGGART.

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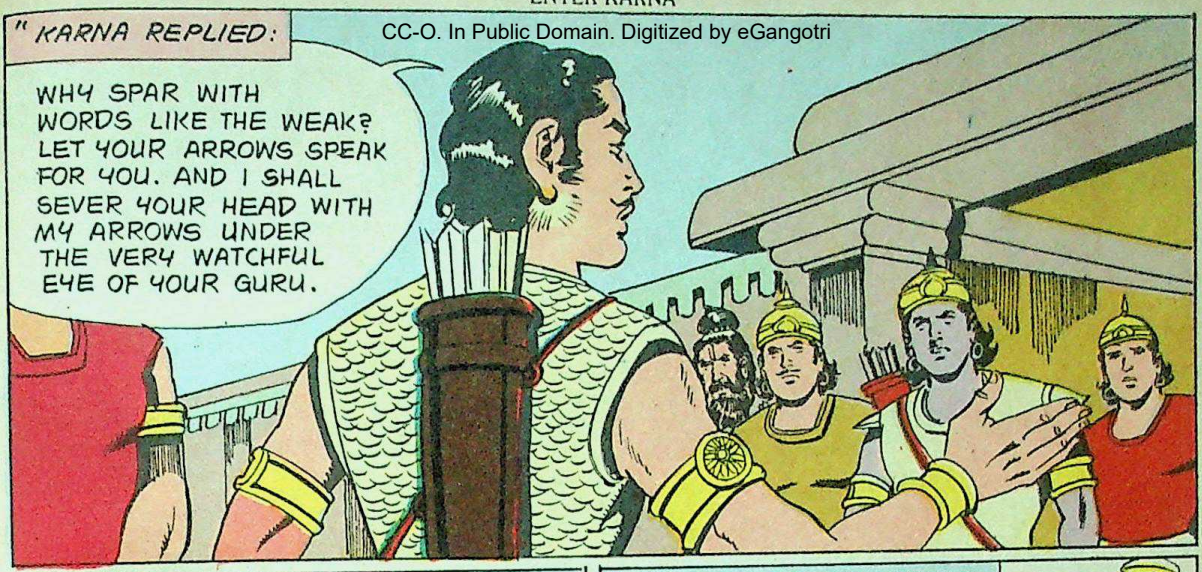

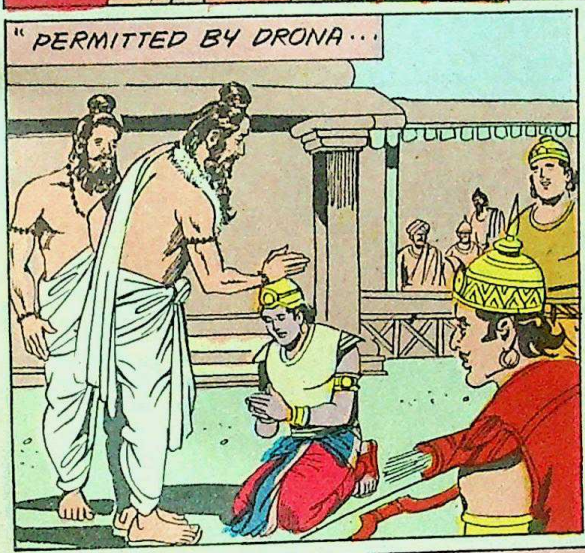

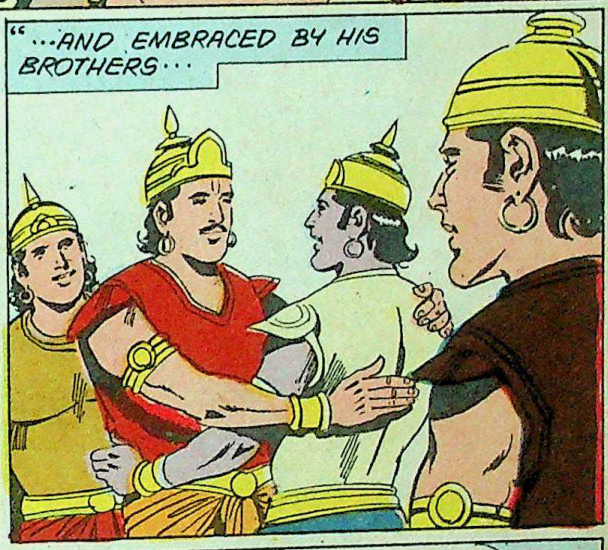

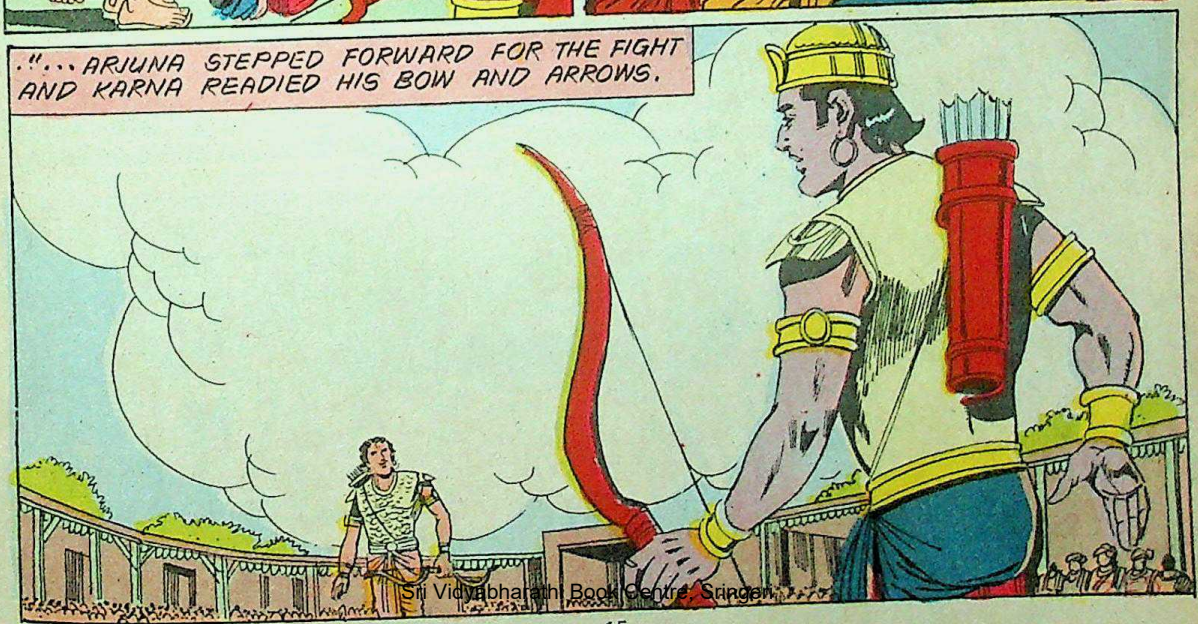

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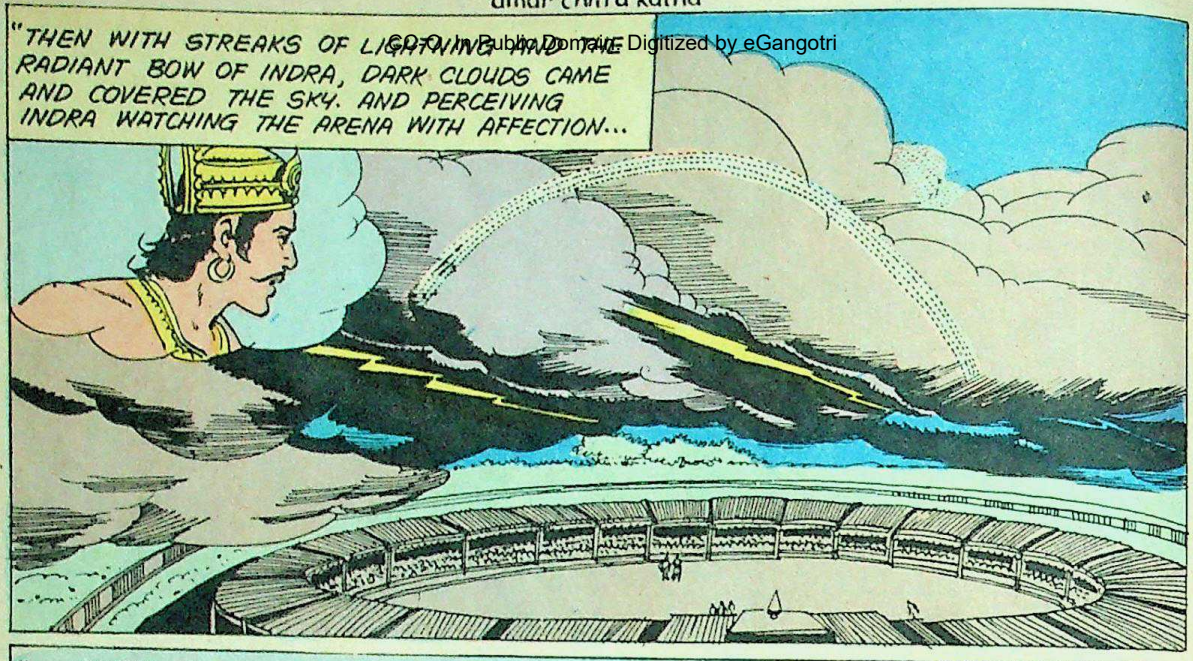

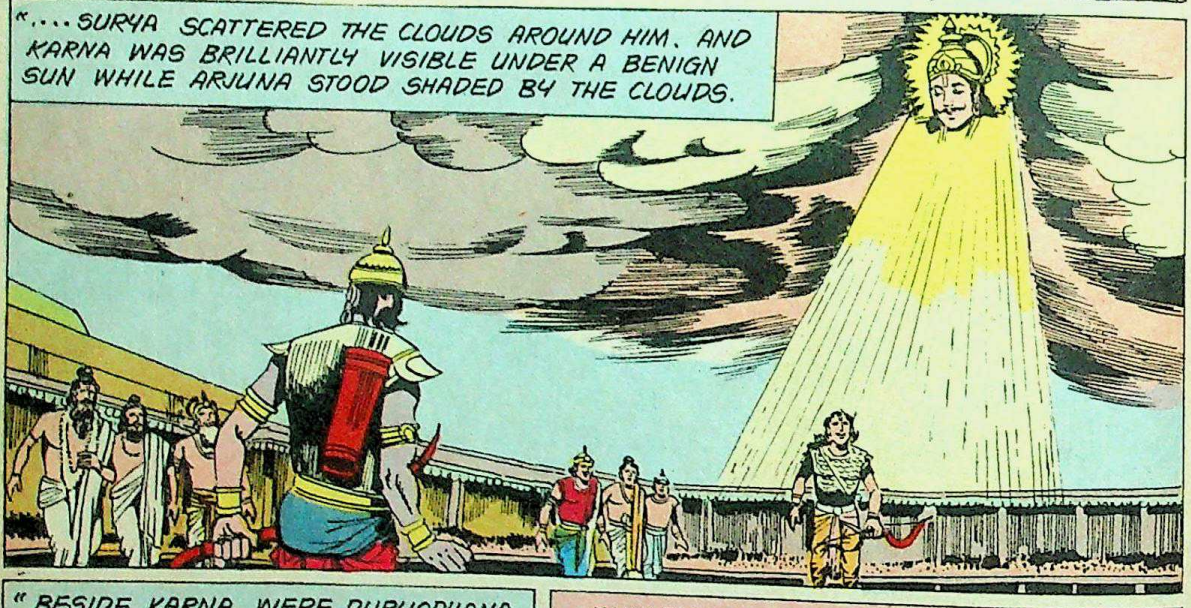

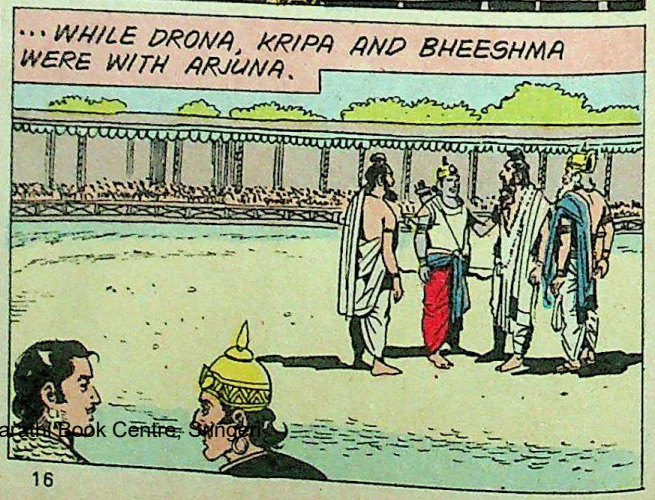

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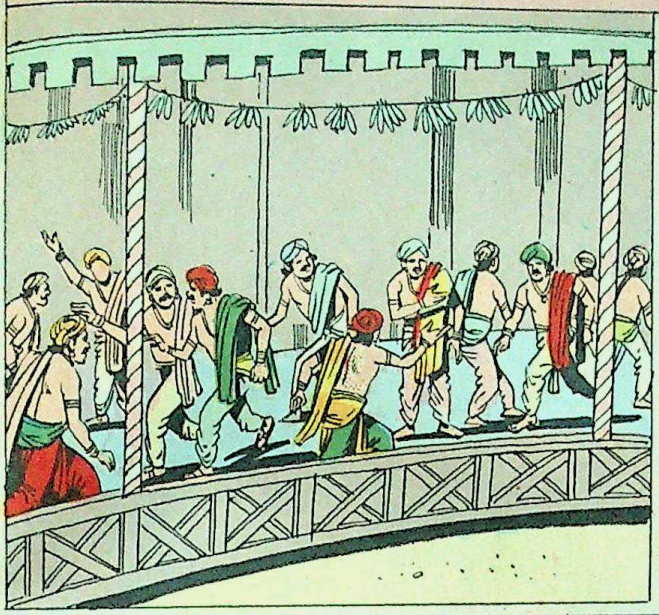
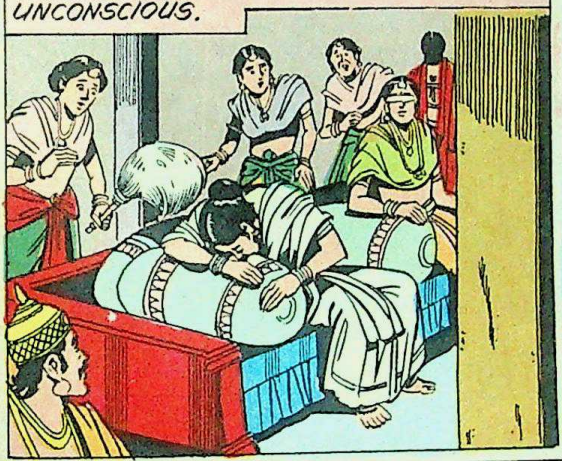
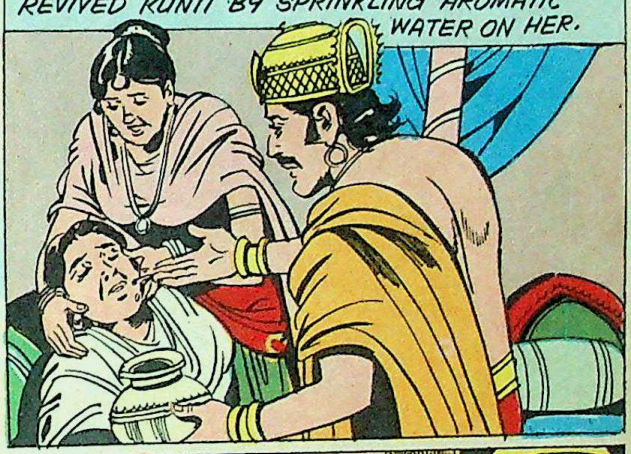
"THE ENTIRE ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING THE WOMEN, WAS DIVIDED.



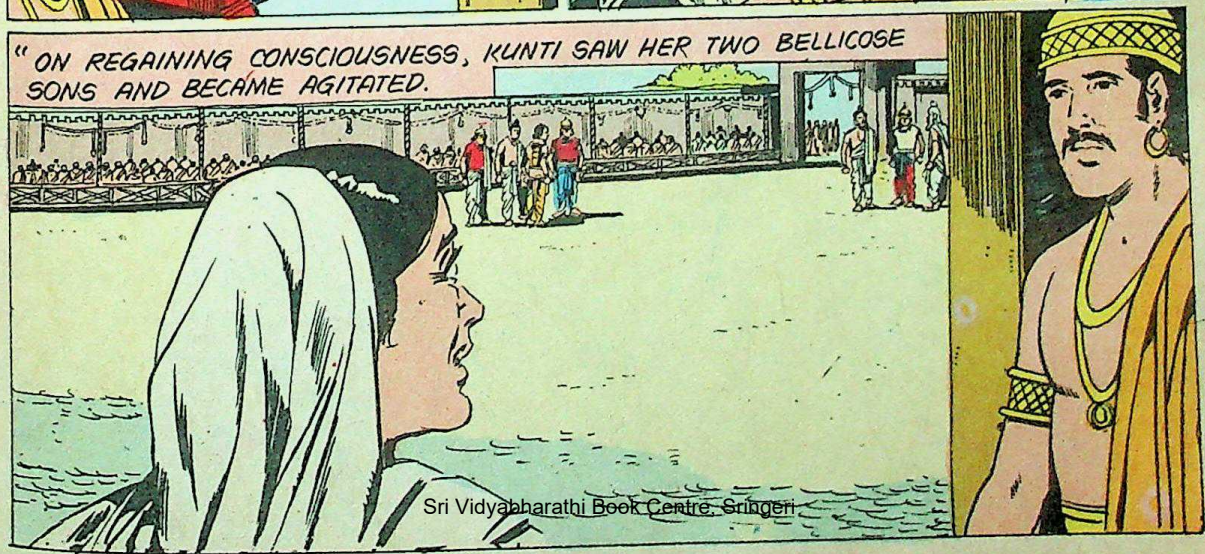
"KUNTI, AWARE OF THE FACTS, FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



"AND VIDURA, WITH THE HELP OF HER MAIDS, REVIVED KUNTI BY SPRINKLING AROMATIC WATER ON HER.



"ON REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, KUNTI SAW HER TWO BELLICOSE SONS AND BECAME AGITATED.



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"THEN KRIPA, WHO KNEW WELL THE RULES OF DUELS, SURVEYED THE CONTENDING WARRIORS READY WITH BOW AND ARROWS AND SAID TO KARNA:

THIS PANDAVA HERE IS THE THIRD SON OF KUNTI AND IS OF THE KURU RACE. HE WILL ENGAGE YOU IN A DUEL. BUT...

...YOU TELL US OF WHICH ROYAL LINE YOU ARE AND WHO YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER ARE.

AND THEN ARJUNA MAY OR MAY NOT CHOOSE TO FIGHT WITH YOU. PRINCES NEVER FIGHT WITH MEN OF INFERIOR DESCENT

"KARNA'S FACE FELL AT KRIPA'S WORDS LIKE A LOTUS FLOWER WILTING UNDER PELTING RAIN. AND DURYODHANA SAID:

IT IS AVERRED THAT MEN OF NOBLE DESCENT, MEN OF VALOUR AND MEN WHO COMMAND ARMIES CAN ASPIRE TO KINGSHIP.

IF ARJUNA WILL NOT FIGHT ONE WHO IS NOT A KING, I SHALL CROWN KARNA KING OF ANGA.

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"AT THAT VERY MOMENT, KARNA WAS INSTALLED ON A SEAT OF GOLD AND CROWNED KING OF ANGA, WITH CEREMONIAL GRAINS AND FLOWERS, BY MEN WHO KNEW THE MANTRAS. AND THE ROYAL UMBRELLA WAS RAISED OVER HIS HEAD WITH A BURST OF CHEERS OF APPROVAL.

"THEN KARNA SAID TO DURYODHANA:

WHAT MATCHING GIFT CAN I GIVE YOU IN RETURN FOR THE KINGDOM DONATED TO ME?

"AND DURYODHANA SAID TO HIM:

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR STAUNCH FRIENDSHIP.

"AND KARNA SAID:

SO BE IT.

"AND HAPPY AT THE TURN OF EVENTS THE TWO EMBRACED EACH OTHER.

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"AND THEN CAME ADHIRATHA ON THE SCENE, WITH HIS CLOTHES ALL ASKEW, SUPPORTING HIS TREMBLING, PERSPIRING SELF ON A STAFF.

"AS SOON AS KARNA SAW HIM HE LEFT HIS WEAPONS AND:..

...IN FILIAL PIETY, BOWED HIS HEAD WHICH WAS STILL WET FROM ANOINTING.

MY SON!

"THE CHARIOTEER HELD HIS FOSTER-SON CLOSE AND SHED TEARS OF JOY.

"BHEEMA, WATCHING THE EVENTS, TOOK KARNA TO BE THE CHARIOTEER'S OFFSPRING AND SAID IN WORDS OF SLIGHT:

YOU, O SON OF A CHARIOTEER, DESERVE NOT DEATH AT THE HANDS OF ARJUNA. GO AND TAKE THE WHIP IN KEEPING WITH YOUR STATION.

NEITHER ARE YOU WORTHY OF REIGNING OVER ANGA, EVEN AS A CUR IS NOT WORTHY OF PARTAKING THE SACRAMENT BY THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.

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"WHEN KARNA HEARD THIS, HE DREW A DEEP BREATH AND WITH LIPS QUIVERING EVER SO LITTLE, SHOT A GLANCE AT THE SUN IN THE SKY.

" DURYODHANA THEN ROSE UP IN RAGE, LIKE AN ELEPHANT IN RUT, AND ROARED:

O BHEEMA, SUCH WORDS DO NOT BECOME YOU. MIGHT IS THE PRIME VIRTUE OF A KSHATRIYA.

THE ORIGIN OF HEROES LIKE THE SOURCE OF RIVERS REMAINS MYSTERIOUS.

THE ORIGIN OF THE MATCHLESS WARRIOR, OUR GURU DRONA, IS TO BE SOUGHT IN A WATER-POT; AND OF KRIPA IN A CLUMP OF REEDS. AND O PANDAVAS, I KNOW THE STORY OF YOUR BIRTH.

THIS KARNA HERE, WHO ALONG WITH HIS CONGENITAL ARMOUR BEARS EVERY AUSPICIOUS TRAIT, DESERVES TO BE THE KING NOT ONLY OF ANGA...

...BUT OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

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IF ANYONE HERE FINDS MY DOINGS FOR KARNA INTOLERABLE, LET HIM MOUNT HIS CHARIOT AND BEND HIS BOW TO GIVE ME FIGHT.

"THEN A DIFFUSED MURMUR OF APPROVAL AROSE, PERVADING THE VAST ASSEMBLY. AND WITH IT THE SUN WENT DOWN. DURYODHANA TOOK KARNA'S HAND AND LED HIM AWAY, HIS PATH LIT BY COUNTLESS LAMPS.

AND, O MONARCH, THE PANDAVAS ALONG WITH DRONA, KRIPA AND BHEESHMA RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES. THE PEOPLE TOO CAME AWAY, SOME CLAIMING VICTORY FOR ARJUNA, SOME FOR KARNA AND SOME FOR DURYODHANA. KUNTI WAS SECRETLY PLEASED AS SHE RECOGNIZED IN THE NEWLY-CROWNED KING OF ANGA HER SON KARNA. AND YUDHISHTHIRA CAME AWAY WITH THE FIRM BELIEF THAT KARNA WAS THE ARCHER PAR EXCELLENCE. AS FOR DURYODHANA, ARJUNA NO LONGER REMAINED A THREAT TO HIM, BECAUSE HE WAS REASSURED BY KARNA'S FRIENDSHIP.

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"PERCEIVING THE PANDAVAS AND THE KAURAVAS TO BE COMPLETE WARRIORS, DRONA THOUGHT THE TIME HAD COME TO DEMAND THE TEACHER'S DUES. AND, O MONARCH, HE SAID TO THEM ONE DAY:

I DEMAND AS MY FEE, DRUPADA, THE KING OF PANCHALA OVERCOME IN BATTLE AND BROUGHT TO ME.

"ACCEDING TO THE DEMAND, THE PUGNACIOUS PRINCES MARCHED OUT ACCOMPANIED BY DRONA.

"THEY FOUGHT THE PANCHALAS IN THEIR WAY...

"...AND SURROUNDED THE CAPITAL OF DRUPADA.

"WHEN ARJUNA SAW DURYODHANA AND HIS BROTHERS AND KARNA AND YUYUTSU VYING WITH ONE ANOTHER TO LEAD THE ATTACK, HE SAID TO DRONA:

THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEIZE DRUPADA IN BATTLE. WE SHALL MOVE IN WHEN THEY HAVE EXPENDED THEIR ENERGY

"AND ARJUNA AND HIS BROTHERS WAITED OUTSIDE THE CITADEL.

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"THE OTHER PRINCES, SPEEDING IN THEIR CHARIOTS AT THE HEELS OF THE CAVALRY, BROKE INTO THE CITY AND THUNDERED UP THE STREETS. MEANWHILE THE KING OF THE PANCHALAS, HEARING THE RUMBLE AND EYEING THE MARCHING ARMY...

"...CAME OUT OF HIS PALACE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS BROTHERS...

"...AND ASSAILING THE KURUS FROM HIS WHITE CHARIOT, BOMBARDED THEM WITH A VOLLEY OF ARROWS. THEN DURYODHANA AND HIS BROTHER DUHSHASANA, STUNG TO THE QUICK, SHOWERED ARROWS UPON THE ENEMY.

Sri Vi... Kathi Book Centre, Singer...

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"THE MIGHTY BOWMAN DRUPADA, THOUGH LACERATED, RETALIATED WITH FORCE.

COURSING THROUGH THE BATTLEFIELD, LIKE A WHEEL OF FIRE, DRUPADA SHROUDED DURYODHANA, KARNA AND THE OTHER PRINCES WITH ARROWS.

THOUGH HE WAS FIGHTING SINGLEHANDED, O MONARCH, THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH HE MOVED, STRUCK TERROR AMONG THE KURUS. THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE FIGHTING NOT ONE BUT MANY DRUPADAS. THE SHARP ARROWS OF THAT KING CAME FAST AND FIERCE, TILL THE PANCHALAS IN THEIR HOMES, BEAT THE DRUMS AND BLEW THE CONCHES OF VICTORY.

"ALL THE CITIZENS, YOUNG AND OLD, RUSHED OUT, AND THEY ADDED THEIR LEONINE ROAR TO THE RESONANCE OF THEIR BOW-STRINGS, AS THEY FELL UPON THE KAURAVAS.

"AND THE BATTLE-SCARRED KAURAVAS CAME WAILING TO THE PANDAVAS.

"WHEN THE PANDAVAS HEARD THE TERRIBLE LAMENT, THEY SALUTED DRONA...

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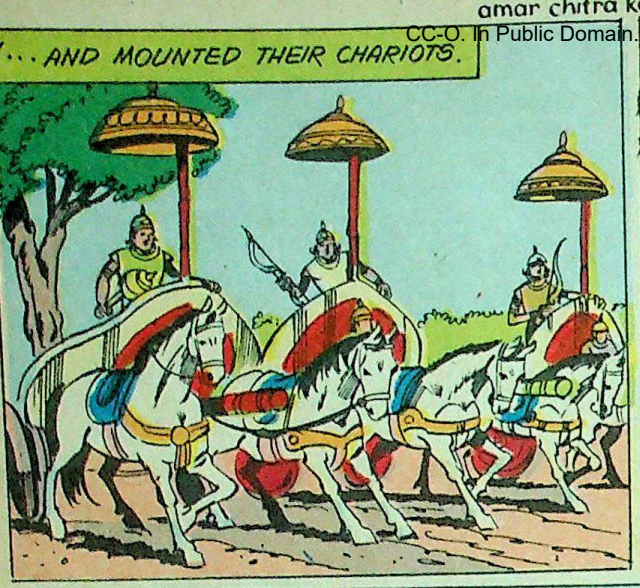

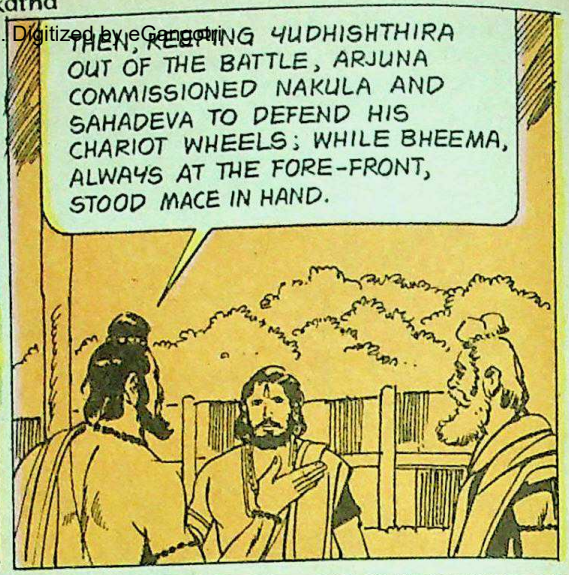

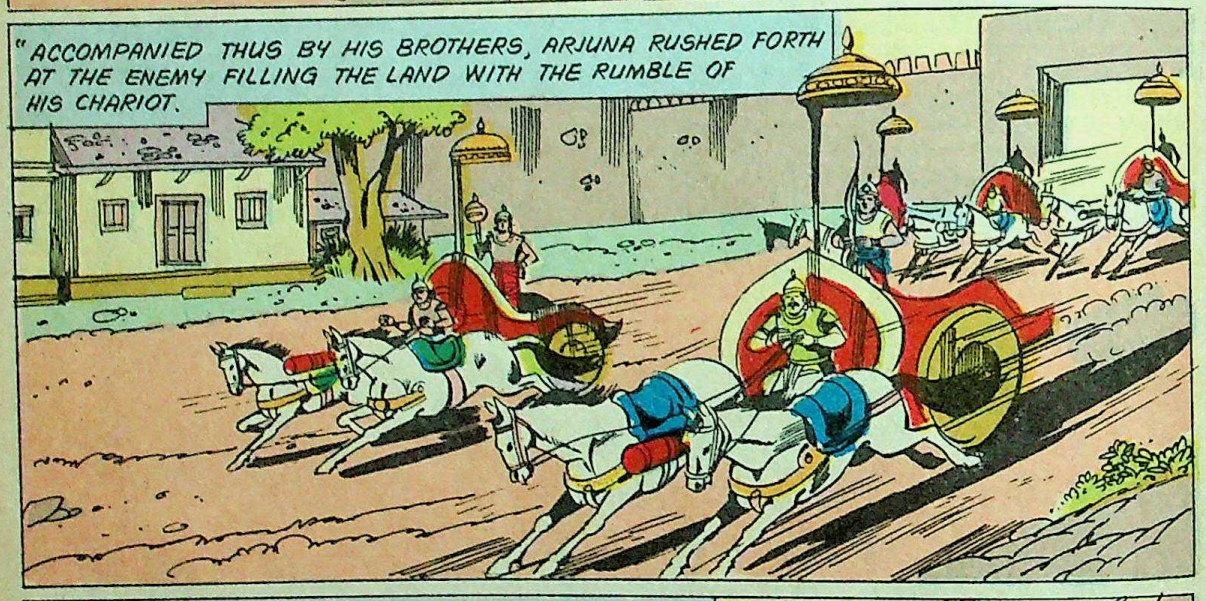

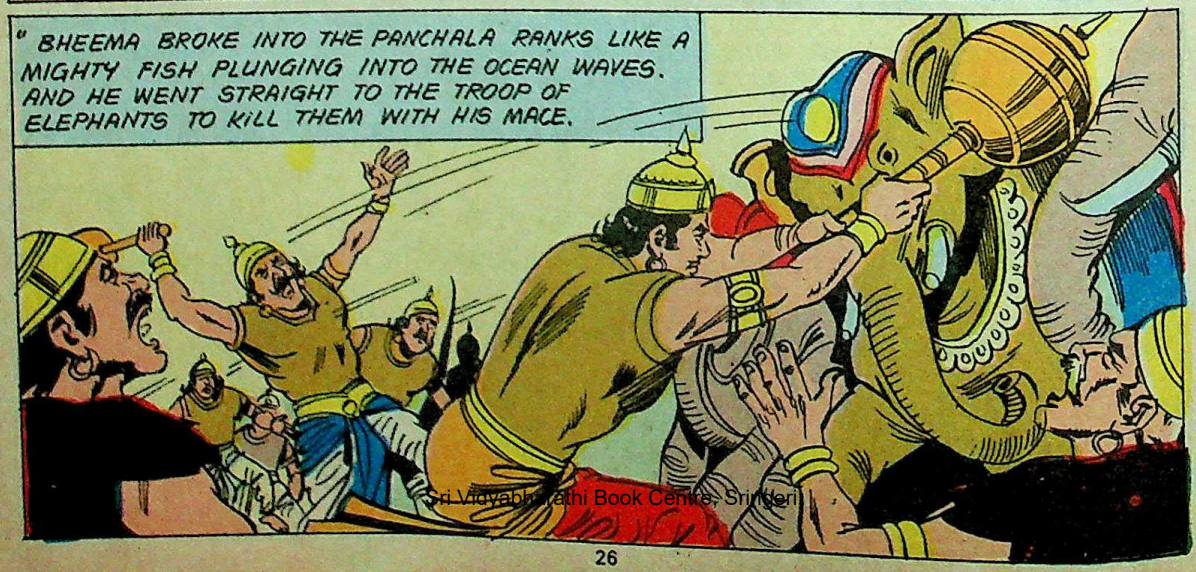

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"MEANWHILE ARJUNA, INTENT ON PLEASING HIS GURU, MOVED TOWARDS DRUPADA, SHOOTING ARROWS AT HIM CEASELESSLY.

" THEN THE PANCHALAS, ROARING LIKE LIONS, ATTACKED ARJUNA FROM ALL SIDES. ENRAGED BY THE SHOUTS, HE STIFLED THEM WITH HIS NEVER-ENDING ARROWS.

O MONARCH, THE BATTLE BECAME TERRIBLE AND WONDROUS. IF THERE WAS A GAP BETWEEN THE AIMING AND DISPATCH OF ARJUNA'S ARROWS, THE OBSERVERS MISSED IT. CHEERING SOUNDS MINGLED WITH THOSE OF CHALLENGE.

"THEN THE KING OF PANCHALA RACED TOWARDS ARJUNA, LIKE SHAMBARA, THE ASURA DID TOWARDS INDRA IN DAYS OF YORE. EVEN AS DRUPADA COVERED ARJUNA WITH ARROWS...

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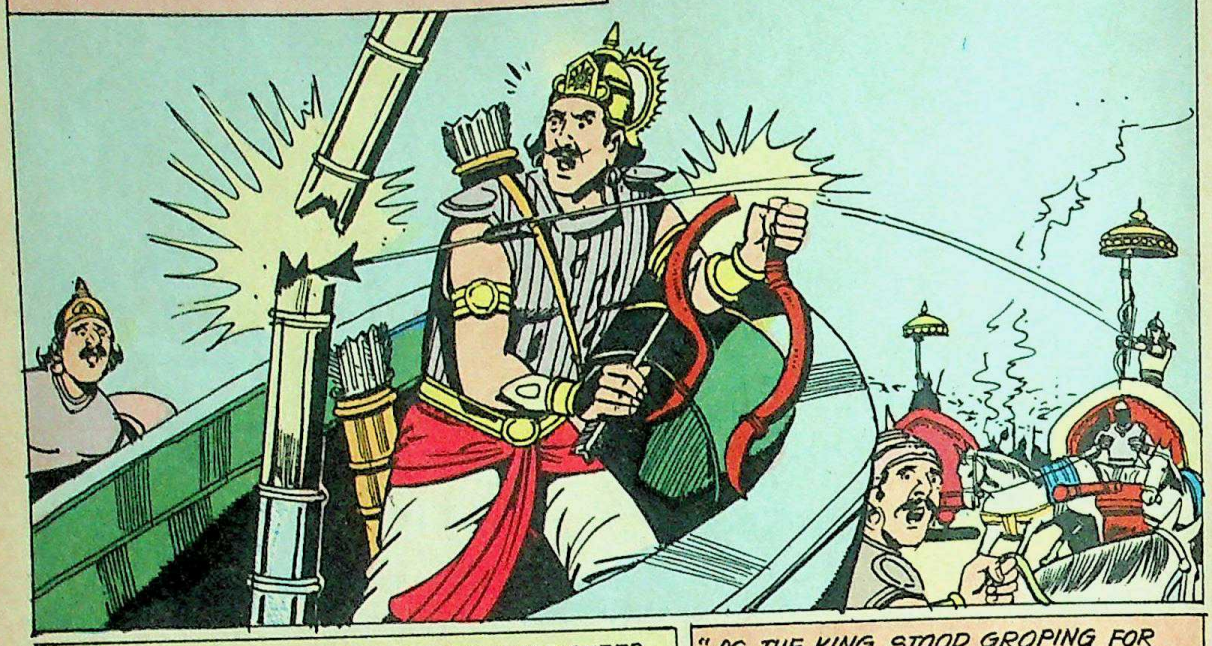
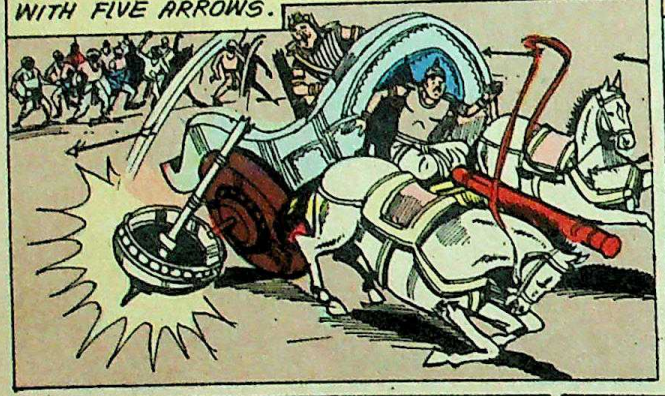
"... THE PANDAVA PRINCE CUT THE KING'S BOW, AND HIS FLAGSTAFF INTO TWO...

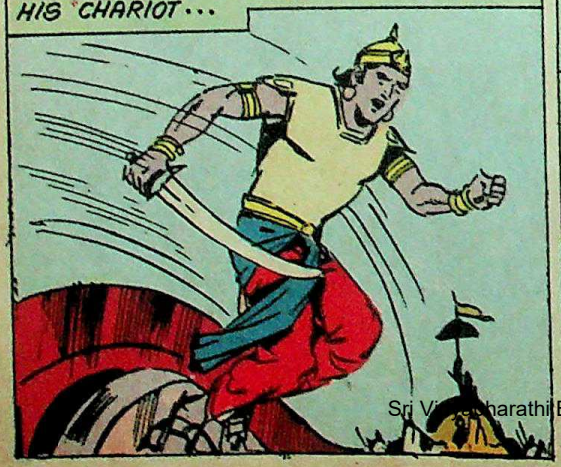


"... AND FELLED HIS HORSES AND CHARIOTEER WITH FIVE ARROWS.



"AS THE KING STOOD GROPING FOR ANOTHER BOW, ARJUNA ABANDONED HIS OWN:..

"... UNSHEATHED HIS SWORD, AND ROARING LIKE A LION, LEAPT OUT OF HIS CHARIOT...



"... ONTO THAT OF HIS ENEMY...

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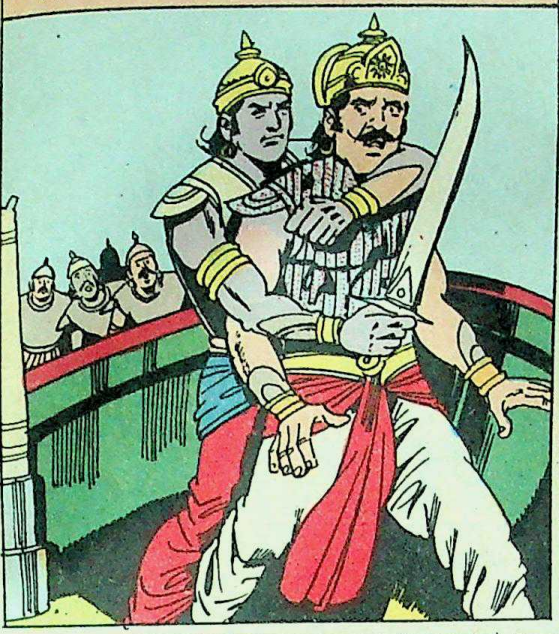
"...AND CAPTURED HIM. SEEING THIS...



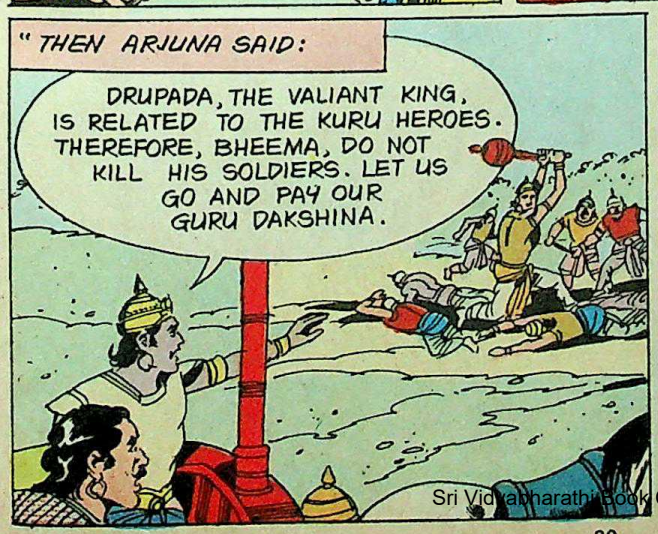
"...THE PANCHALA ARMY FLED. ARJUNA WHO HAD PROVED HIS MIGHT TO ALL, LET OUT A ROAR OF TRIUMPH...

"...AND MADE HIS RETURN.

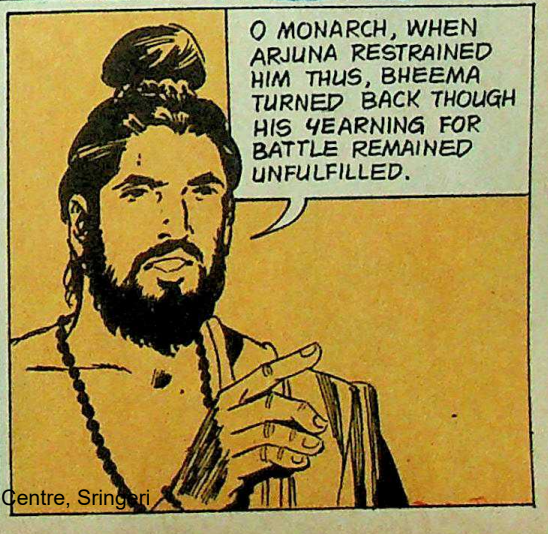
"THE PRINCES SEEING ARJUNA RETURNING THUS, BEGAN TO SLAY DRUPADA'S MEN.

"THEN ARJUNA SAID:

DRUPADA, THE VALIANT KING, IS RELATED TO THE KURU HEROES. THEREFORE, BHEEMA, DO NOT KILL HIS SOLDIERS. LET US GO AND PAY OUR GURU DAKSHINA.



O MONARCH, WHEN ARJUNA RESTRAINED HIM THUS, BHEEMA TURNED BACK THOUGH HIS YEARNING FOR BATTLE REMAINED UNFULFILLED.



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AND THE PRINCES THEN OFFERED THE CAPTIVE KING TO THEIR GURU.

" DRONA, SEEING DRUPADA CAPTIVE, INDIGENT AND HUMILIATED, AND REMEMBERING THE KING'S EARLIER ARROGANCE, SAID:

I HAVE LAID DESOLATE YOUR KINGDOM AND CAPITAL. YOUR LIFE IS AT THE MERCY OF YOUR FOE. WOULD YOU REVIVE AN OLD FRIENDSHIP?

" WITH A SLIGHT SMILE HE CONTINUED:

WE BRAHMANAS ARE EVER-FORGIVING. AND MY AFFECTION FOR YOU WAS NURTURED BY OUR DAYS OF CHILDHOOD FUN IN THE ASHRAMA. THEREFORE, O KING, I SEEK YOUR FRIENDSHIP ONCE AGAIN.

I AM NOW GIVING HALF YOUR KINGDOM BACK TO YOU AS A GIFT. A KING, IT WAS SAID, COULD HAVE ONLY ANOTHER KING AS HIS FRIEND. THAT WAS WHY I STROVE FOR YOUR KINGDOM.

ALL THE TERRITORY TO THE SOUTH OF BHAGIRATHI SHALL BE YOUR KINGDOM, AND ALL THAT TO THE NORTH, MINE.

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AND I SHALL REMAIN YOUR FRIEND, IF YOU CHOOSE IT TO BE SO.

"DRUPADA SEETHED WITHIN, BUT REPLIED:

SUCH MAGNANIMITY IN ONE WHO IS VALIANT AND NOBLE, LIKE YOU, IS NOT SURPRISING. I AM PLEASED WITH YOU, AND WISH TO HAVE YOUR LASTING FRIENDSHIP.

AFTER THIS, O MONARCH, DRONA RELEASED THE KING AND PRESENTED HIM WITH HALF HIS KINGDOM. DRUPADA, SAD IN MIND, CHOSE TO STAY IN THE CITY OF KAMPILYA IN THE PROVINCE OF MAKANDI, AND RULED OVER SOUTHERN PANCHALA UP TO THE RIVER CHARMANWATI.

THEN, CONVINCED THAT HIS KSHATRIYA MIGHT WAS NO MATCH AGAINST DRONA, DRUPADA WANDERED ALL OVER THE EARTH WITH THE HOPE OF OBTAINING A MIGHTY SON.

AND DRONA REIGNED OVER THE LAND NAMED AHICHCHHATRA—THE LAND WON BY ARJUNA IN WAR AND BESTOWED UPON HIS GURU. WITH ITS TOWNS AND ITS POPULACE.

THUS ENDS THE SIXTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S IMMORTAL ITIHASA, **THE MAHABHARATA.**

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PRONUNCIATION GUIDE AND GLOSSARY
Mahabharata-6

Pg.

1. **KARNA** कर्णः
The son of unwed KUNTI by SURYA the Sun-god. Abandoned by KUNTI, he was found and reared by a charioteer and his wife.
VEDA VYASA वेदव्यासः
Literally the man who analysed and compiled the VEDAS — RIK, YAJUS, SAMA and ATHARVA.
BHARATAs भारताः
The descendants of King BHARATA, the son of DUSHYANTA and SHAKUNTALA.
VAISHAMPAYANA वैशम्पायनः
JANAMEJAYA जनमेजयः
SARPA SATRA सर्पसत्रं
12-year-long snake sacrifice.
DRONA द्रोणः
The son of sage BHARADWAJA — the chief Guru of the KAURAVAs and the PANDAVAs.

DRUPADA द्रुपदः
King of PANCHALA who humiliated DRONA, his childhood friend.
PANCHALA पञ्चालं
An ancient state.
HASTINAPURA हस्तिनापुरं
Capital of the KURUS on the banks of the GANGA.
BHEESHMA भीष्मः
Son of SHANTANU and GANGA. Lifelong celibate.
ARJUNA अर्जुनः
The third PANDAVA. Son of KUNTI by INDRA king of the DEVAs.

2. **DHRITARASHTRA** धृतराष्ट्रः
Son of VEDA VYASA and AMBIKA. Congenitally blind.
PANDU पाण्डुः
Son of VEDA VYASA and AMBALIKA. His sons the PANDAVAs were born to his two wives through the grace of celestials.

VIDURA विदुरः
Son of VYASA and AMBIKA's SHOODRA maid.
KURU कुरुः
A descendant of the great king KURU.
KRIPA कृपः
Guru of the KURU princes. Twin brother of DRONA's wife KRIPI.

3. **GANDHARI** गान्धारी
Wife of DHRITARASHTRA. Mother of the 100 KAURAVAs.
KUNTI कुन्ती
The first wife of PANDU and the mother of the first three PANDAVAs.

4. **ASHWATTHAMA** अश्वत्थामा

5. **YUDHISHTHIRA** युधिष्ठिरः
Son of KUNTI by DHARMA. The eldest KURU prince, and the eldest PANDAVA.

6. **BHEEMA** भीमः
Son of KUNTI by VAYU the wind-god. The second PANDAVA.
DURYODHANA दुर्योधनः
The first of the 100 sons of DHRITARASHTRA and GANDHARI.

7. **INDRA** इन्द्रः
King of the DEVAs (celestials) by whose grace ARJUNA was born.
VISHNU विष्णुः
The second of the Hindu triumvirate identified as the preserver.

8. **PANDAVA** पाण्डवः
Son of PANDU.
DHARMA धर्मं
The knowledge of what is right.

9. **AGNEYA** आग्नेयं
VARUNA वारुणं
VAYAVA वायवं
BHAUMA भौमं
PARVATA पार्वतं
ANTARDHANA अन्तर्धानं

12 **KAURAVAs** कौरवाः

SURYA सूर्यः
The Sun-god by whose grace Karna was born to unwed KUNTI.

18. **ANGA** अङ्गं
An ancient state.

20. **ADHIRATHA** अधिरथः
The charioteer who found and reared KARNA.

21. **KSHATRIYA** क्षत्रियः
Class of people, traditionally engaged in the military arts.

23. **YUYUTSU** युयुत्सुः
The son of DHRITARASHTRA and a woman of the VAISHYA class.

24. **DUHSHASANA** दुःशासनः
The second of the 100 sons of DHRITARASHTRA and GANDHARI.

26. **NAKULA** नकुलः
SAHADEVA सहदेवः
The twin sons of MADRI, the second wife of PANDU. The fourth and fifth PANDAVAs.

27. **ASURA** असुरः
One of those denizens of the celestial world characterized by baser passions.

29. **GURU DAKSHINA** गुरुदक्षिणा
The fee to be given by a disciple to his Guru as consideration for instruction imparted.

30. **BRAHMANAs** ब्राह्मणाः
Class of people traditionally engaged in learning and scholastics.
ASHRAMA आश्रमं
Hermitage.
BHAGIRATHI भागीरथी
Another name for river Ganga.

31. **KAMPILYA** काम्पिल्यं
MAKANDI माकन्दी
CHARMANWATI चर्मण्वती
The river now known as Chambal.
AHICHCHHATRA अहिच्छत्र
ITIHASA इतिहास
An Epic — Literally "And so indeed it was."

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